

SPECIAL EDUCATION - PH.D.

College of Education Health and Human Services
 School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences
www.kent.edu/ehhs/ldes

About This Program

The Special Education Ph.D. program offers rigorous coursework and research opportunities to help you become a leader in the field. Apply now and make an impact in special education. Read more...

Contact Information

- **Brian Barber** | bbarber8@kent.edu | 330-672-0605
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - Mostly online
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Education administrators, all other

- 8.1% much faster than the average
- 52,100 number of jobs
- \$87,580 potential earnings

Education teachers, postsecondary

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 77,300 number of jobs
- \$65,440 potential earnings

Community and social service specialists, all other

- 11.7% much faster than the average
- 105,200 number of jobs
- \$46,770 potential earnings

Social and community service managers

- 17.0% much faster than the average
- 175,500 number of jobs
- \$69,600 potential earnings

Social scientists and related workers, all other

- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- \$87,260 potential earnings

Special education teachers, all other

- 8.5% much faster than the average
- 36,600 number of jobs
- \$62,820 potential earnings

Accreditation

The Ph.D. degree in Special Education is accredited by the Council of Education of the Deaf for coursework that focuses on deaf education.

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 graduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale (minimum 3.500 GPA is recommended) *starting with spring 2026 admission term, minimum 3.000 GPA will be required*
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Goal statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Interview
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 58 PTE score
 - Minimum 110 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Rolling admissions
- **Spring Semester**
 - Rolling admissions
- **Summer Term**
 - Rolling admissions

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
SPED 70092	COLLEGE TEACHING AND PRACTICUM	3
SPED 80001	SPECIAL EDUCATION RESIDENCY	3

SPED 80002	ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	3
SPED 80003	IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	3
SPED 80005	EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	3
SPED 80040	RESEARCH GRANT DEVELOPMENT FOR DISABILITY PROGRAMS	3
SPED 83201	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	3
SPED 83301	SINGLE-SUBJECT RESEARCH METHODS	3
Major Electives, choose from the following:		12
RMS 75510	STATISTICS I FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	
RMS 78710	INTRODUCTION TO MEASUREMENT	
RMS 78716	STATISTICS II: ANOVA AND NONPARAMETRIC TESTS	
RMS 78728	MULTIPLE REGRESSION	
RMS 85515	QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN AND ANALYSIS	
RMS 85516	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	
RMS 85517	ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	
RMS 85518	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	
RMS 88791	SEMINAR: EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT	
SPED 73204	LEGAL AND POLICY FOUNDATIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION	
SPED 83991	SEMINAR IN SPECIAL EDUCATION	
SPED 83998	RESEARCH:SPECIAL EDUCATION ¹	
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
SPED 80199	DISSERTATION I ²	30
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		66

¹ Research topic for SPED 83998 must be approved by and registered with a specific faculty member and approved by advisory committee.

² Upon admission to candidacy, each doctoral candidate must register for SPED 80199. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for Dissertation I for a total of 30 credit hours, and thereafter SPED 80299 each semester until all requirements for the degree have been met.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- After admission to the Ph.D. degree program, students plan a program of study with their respective faculty advisory committee, headed by their advisor.
- Students' programs may include at least one appropriate graduate-level minor or cognate as well as the major.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Formulate ideas, concepts, designs and/or techniques within and beyond the current boundaries of knowledge and practice in the field of special education; demonstrate breadth within their learning experiences.

2. Articulate research problems, potentials and limits with respect to theory knowledge or practice in the field of special education; create research and scholarship that makes a substantive contribution to the field.
3. Share knowledge and research in the field of special education with students in a clear and engaging manner; effectively communicate with students within and outside of class; advance contributions of the field of special education to society.
4. Communicate complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner to a variety of audiences.
5. Demonstrate the ability to work well with others, participate in professional organizations and adhere to ethical standards of research protocol and professional behavior.

Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Special Education is designed to prepare highly qualified, experienced persons for academic faculty and research positions in colleges, universities and research centers, in addition to leadership, administrative and advocacy positions. The program enables students to master a comprehensive field of emphasis in special education; employ intellectual and innovative methods for addressing the needs of exceptional children, youth and adults; and acquire a breadth of understanding of related disciplines that focus on the professional roles of college teaching, research, administration and clinical-, educational- and agency-based services for individuals with exceptionalities.

Students participate in research studies, learn methods for conducting research and design independent and collaborative studies in their specialty area. In addition to conceptualizing, designing, implementing and interpreting research, all doctoral students are also expected to demonstrate competence in teaching at the college level during their doctoral training.