

Ph.D. in SPECIAL EDUCATION

FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY®

COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

ED47

THE PROGRAM

The **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION** prepares leaders in the field. Graduates are prepared for leadership positions in colleges and universities, school districts, and community agencies. Pursuit of a Ph.D. in special education at FAU means more than coursework. Our students also work closely with faculty to conduct, publish and disseminate research, develop and teach courses, and prepare grant proposals for funding. Students interested in delving deep into different areas of study within the discipline of special education (e.g., special education teachers, certified behavior analysts, curriculum specialists) are invited to apply. The program accommodates both full- and part-time students.

COURSES

SPECIAL EDUCATION CORE – 18 credits

- Advanced Behavior Analysis
- Cultural & Linguistic Diversity: Issues & Implications in Special Education
- Doctoral Seminar
- Grant Writing
- Learning & Behavior Characteristics
- Legal Foundations of Special Education

CONCENTRATION – 15 credits

Students choose 5 courses in one area of focus (e.g., Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Early Childhood Special Education, or Special Education Intervention Specialist).

RESEARCH & STATISTICS CORE – 6 credits

- Advanced Educational Research
- Advanced Educational Statistics
- Three (3) electives in Quantitative or Qualitative Method

LEADERSHIP SEMINARS – 6 credits

- Orientation to Research
- Professional Dissemination I
- Professional Dissemination II
- Traditional Course Development and College Teaching
- Web-based Course Development and College Teaching
- Triad of Professional Activities in Higher Education

INTERNSHIPS – 6 credits

- Internship I
- Internship II

RESIDENCY

Students will complete a residency with department faculty, intended to build skills in research and teaching.

PRE-CANDIDACY RESEARCH – 3-6 credits

Pre-Candidacy Research in Special Education

DISSERTATION RESEARCH – 12 credits

Students will complete an original research proposal, study and dissertation. They are encouraged to publish this research.



How to **APPLY**

A large, white, three-dimensional sign for Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is mounted on a blue structure. The letters 'FAU' are prominently displayed in a large, serif font. Below them, the words 'FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The sign is set against a backdrop of palm trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds.

APPLICATION

To be considered for admission into the doctoral program in the Department of Special Education, applicants must complete a graduate application online through FAU's Graduate College at <https://www.fau.edu/graduate>; select *Ph.D. in Special Education*.

Students are admitted for Fall (August) or Spring (January) or Summer (May) entry. Application deadlines are: April 15 (Domestic) and February 15 (International) - Fall semester entry. November 1 (Domestic) and July 15 (International) - Spring semester entry.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Domestic Applicants

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.5
- GRE test score of 148 (verbal), 144 (quantitative) and 3 (analytical writing)
- Three years teaching (or similar) experience
- Master's Degree
- Department Interview
- Original Writing Sample

International Applicants

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.5
- GRE test score of 148 (verbal), 144 (quantitative) and 3 (analytical writing)
- Three years teaching (or similar) experience
- Master's Degree (w/course-by-course evaluation of international transcripts if applicable)
- Department Interview
- Original Writing Sample
- TOEFL score of 500 or IBT of 61; IELTS 6.0; Duolingo 90

Completed Graduate College applications are forwarded to the Department of Special Education for a decision. Once applications are received from the Graduate College, students are then asked to complete a Departmental application.

Learn more about our Ph.D. at

<https://www.fau.edu/education/academicdepartments/ese/phd/>



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FAU | Department of Special Education



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