SPECIAL EDUCATION, PHD

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education

department head: Michaelene Ostrosky
director of graduate studies: Stacy Dymond
graduate admissions information: Linda Stimson

overview of admissions & requirements: College of Education
(https://education.illinois.edu/programs/grad/how-to-apply?url=/
programs/grad)

overview of grad college admissions & requirements: https://
grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply
department website: http://education.illinois.edu/sped
program website: College of Education Programs (https://
education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs)
department faculty: Special Education Faculty (https://
education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder/sped)
college website: http://education.illinois.edu/
department office: 142 Education Building, 1310 South Sixth
Street, Champaign, IL 61820
phone: (217) 244-3542
email: gradservices@education.illinois.edu

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is a research focused degree
and is tailored to the individual. Each candidate works closely with an
adviser to develop an integrated course of study reflecting his or her
goals in the area of special education. All doctoral students have the
opportunity to be involved in research, university teaching, and service
to the field of special education during their doctoral studies. Doctoral
students typically complete the program in four to five years of full-
time resident study. Please see the Department of Special Education
https://education.illinois.edu/sped/programs-degrees/phd-sped for more
information about requirements and to view the Department of Special
Education Doctoral Advisement Manual.

Graduate Degree Programs in Special Education

Special Education, EdM (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/
education/special-education-edm) (on campus & off-campus)
optional concentrations: Bilingual-Bicultural Education
(http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education)|Digital
Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/
concentration/digital-learning)

Special Education, MS (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/
education/special-education-ms)
optional concentrations: Bilingual-Bicultural Education
(http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/
concentration/bilingual-bicultural-education)|Digital
Learning (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/education/
concentration/digital-learning)

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Admission

Applicants must submit a complete application for admission. The
applicant must submit three letters of reference and transcripts of all
previous undergraduate and graduate work. A 3.0 grade point average (A
= 4.0) for the last two years of the undergraduate program and for any
previous graduate work is a minimum requirement for admission. The
applicant must also submit a goal statement indicating his/her interests,
experiences, and goals for pursuing graduate study in special education.
In addition to the above items, international students must submit a
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score (taken within two
years of the start of the semester for which the student is requesting
admission). International students must have a total iBT score greater
than 102 (72nd-79th percentile). The minimum speaking score is 24 (79th
percentile). Master's applicants should also submit a Master's Degree
Program Special Education Form (http://education.illinois.edu/programs/
grad/how-to-apply). Doctoral program applicants are required to submit a
writing sample in addition to their goal statement.

Off-Campus Program

The Department of Special Education offers master's degree programs
off-campus in coordination with Federal Personnel Preparation Grant
awards. The focus of the off-campus program changes depending on the
type of grant award. For example, past emphases have been on behavior
intervention and multiple disabilities. For degree requirements, see the
Master of Education chart above.

Licensure

The Council on Teacher Education (http://cote.illinois.edu) functions as
the all-University governance system for licensure. Graduate students
who wish to qualify for the council's recommendation for a teaching or
administrative license must complete the appropriate graduate program.
The Department of Special Education offers graduate-level licensure
programs in Learning and Behavior Specialist I (LBS-I), and Learning
and Behavior Specialist II (LBS-II). Early Childhood Special Education
master's students who already hold a Professional Educator License
who went through an Early Childhood approved program qualify for
the Illinois ECSE approval. Students completing the Director of Special
Education focus are eligible for the State of Illinois Director of Special
Education Endorsement. For specific information about licensure
requirements, call the Council on Teacher Education (217-333-7195) or go
to www.cote.illinois.edu (http://www.cote.illinois.edu).

Faculty Research Interests

The Department of Special Education faculty have a variety of research
interests. There are multiple opportunities for graduate students to
engage in research activities with faculty. For information about specific
faculty research interests, current grants, and publications, please visit
the Faculty Finder (https://education.illinois.edu/faculty-finder).

Facilities and Resources

The College of Education also has many resources to assist graduate
students through their academic career. The Bureau of Educational
Research works with students to secure research funding. The Council on
Teacher Education (http://cote.illinois.edu) entitles candidates seeking a
Professional Educator License and provides accreditation of professional
education programs. Each student completing a degree program is
assigned a graduate adviser, who is available to assist the student with
planning the program of study and determining degree requirements,
courses and timelines for degree completion.

Information on University resources can be found at http://
www.grad.illinois.edu/current-students.

Financial Aid

Students engaged in graduate study and research at the University of
Illinois at Urbana-Champaign find an environment where collaboration
among faculty members and students is nurtured and rewarded and
where the students' contributions are recognized and valued. In many
cases, this recognition comes in the form of financial awards that enable

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 03/2020
students to devote concentrated attention to their studies. Virtually all doctoral candidates receive assistantships/traineeships. Traineeships are grant funded and are available for full-time students pursuing initial teacher licensure and leadership preparation in specific areas. Other financial aid opportunities (e.g., fellowships and assistantships) are available to part-time and other master's degree students on a competitive basis. Students receiving traineeships, assistantships, and fellowships are exempt from payment of tuition and some fees.

Financial aid in the form of assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and tuition waivers can be found throughout the college (https://education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/financial-aid) and campus. Campus opportunities can be found at the Graduate College (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/funding-jobs) and the Office of Student Financial Aid (http://www.osfa.illinois.edu). Please note: Graduate students employed as Staff by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are not eligible for a College of Education Award or Scholarship.

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

A list of additional requirements can be found on the program's website, (https://education.illinois.edu/faceted-search/programs?degree=edd&department=sped) the College of Education Graduate Programs Handbook (https://education.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate/coe-graduate-handbook), and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Special Education, PhD

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completion of at least 64 hours beyond the master's degree including:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Major Subject Coursework (minimum)</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SPED 599 Thesis Research (min/max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>4-20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Study (min/max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research coursework</td>
<td>16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
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Other Requirements

<table>
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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters Degree Required for Admission to PhD</td>
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<td>Residency: Maintain continuous full time (12 hours) enrollment until the student takes the preliminary examination and during the graduating semester. Zero hours are required for all other semesters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Research Requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exams</td>
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<td>Human Subjects Approval</td>
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<td>Preliminary Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit</td>
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