

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/teacher-education/graduate-programs/special-education/>

Degree Requirements

Total Semester Credit Hours Required

A minimum of 75 semester credit hours (SCH) beyond the baccalaureate, including 6 SCH for dissertation.

Course	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDSP 6103	Social, Psychological, and Educational Aspects of Intellectual and Development Disabilities	3
EDSP 6303	Seminar in Emotional and Behavioral Disorders	3
EDSP 6403	Seminar in Learning Disabilities	3
EDSP 6603	Social Constructs of Disabilities	3
Research		
EDSP 6003	Single Subject Research	3
ELDR 5203	Research in Education	3
Six SCH in statistics (selected with advisor.)		6
Three SCH Qualitative Research course (selected with advisor.)		3
Mentorship		
EDSP 6913	Independent Study (Mentorship in Teaching)	3
EDSP 6913	Independent Study (Mentorship in Research)	3
Dissertation		
EDSP 6983	Dissertation	3
EDSP 6993	Dissertation	3
Additional Major Courses		
Selected in consultation with advisor.		36
Three SCH of additional research coursework is recommended.		
Selected in consultation with advisor.		
Cognate/Minor Area of Study		
Please note: Students in the COMS cognate (15 SCH) will take the following:		
COMS 5113	Seminar in Communication Sciences (must be repeated once for credit)	
COMS 5253	Research Application in Communication Sciences (must be repeated once for credit)	
COMS 5383	Seminar in Pedagogy	
Total SCHs		75

Major/Emphasis

Requirements will depend upon individual student's needs. Transfer of coursework from a student's masters' degree is not automatic; please see the Graduate School guidelines for credit by transfer (<http://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/general-requirement-regulations-doctoral-degrees/credit-by-transfer/>). Courses from a masters' degree are only transferred with advisor approval.

Research Tools

Students must take EDSP 6003 and ELDR 5203, two sequential statistics classes, and one qualitative research course at the 5000 or 6000 level as determined by their advisor.

Mentorship Requirement

Two semesters of mentorship, EDSP 6913 (Mentorship in Teaching) and EDSP 6913 (Mentorship in Research), supervised by a TWU Teacher Education faculty member. One of these individual studies is a supervised university teaching experience; the other is a supervised research experience.

Qualifying Examination

A comprehensive portfolio examination that demonstrates a student's depth and breadth of knowledge related to special education determines a student's eligibility for candidacy. The student's advisory committee and other Special Education faculty grade the portfolio on a rubric. Sections deemed unsatisfactory may be presented again one time after six months.

Final Examination

Students must successfully complete a research project, write the dissertation according to advisory committee and TWU Graduate School guidelines, and defend the dissertation in an open meeting, which requires answering questions effectively and demonstrating competence and fluency with content.

Courses of Instruction in Special Education with Federation Universities

Students wishing to enroll in Federation courses will do so through a cross-registration mechanism administered by the TWU Graduate School after their major advisor has approved the coursework.