

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 90 semester credit hours (SCH) beyond the baccalaureate, including 6-12 SCH for dissertation.

Code	Title	SCHs
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		15-18
EDSP 6003	Single Subject Research	
Two courses in statistics, selected with advisor		
Two or three additional research courses, selected with advisor		
Mentorship (i.e., EDSP 6913, taken twice)		6
Dissertation		6-12
EDSP 6983	Dissertation	
EDSP 6993	Dissertation	
Cognate/Minor Area of Study (courses selected with advisor)		12-18
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	
Additional Major Courses as Needed		24-39
Courses selected with advisor; may include the following if needed.		
EDSP 5013	Collaborating for Effective Intervention	
EDSP 5033	Using Assessments for Effective Interventions	
EDSP 5043	Legal and Administrative Issues of Special Education Programs	
EDSP 5123	Students with High-Incidence Disabilities	
EDSP 5133	Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities	
EDSP 5313	Behavior Interventions for Students with Disabilities	
EDSP 5423	Instructional Interventions for Students with Disabilities	

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 (Single-Subject Research), two sequential statistics classes, and three or four additional research courses at the 5000 or 6000 level as determined by their advisor.

Residence Requirement

Two semesters of mentorship (i.e., EDSP 6913) supervised by a TWU Teacher Education faculty member replaces the residency requirement. 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.