

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

DOCTORATE OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## DELIVERY METHOD

All terms will be offered  
100% online  
(some courses will occur at a  
specific day/time - synchronously,  
while others will not -  
asynchronously)

## START TERM

Spring only

## COMPLETION TIME

2.5 - 3 years

## NUMBER OF CREDITS

60 credits  
(up to 12 credits can be  
transferred in)

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Slippery Rock University's Doctorate in Special Education prepares educators and human service agency workers for leadership positions in the field of Special Education. In the United States today, there is a shortage of qualified school administrators with expertise in special education, a shortage of qualified candidates for positions in special education teacher preparation programs in colleges and universities, and a shortage of leaders to manage human service agencies focused on helping children and adults with disabilities in community settings. The SRU Special Education Doctoral Program is conveniently designed to begin addressing these shortages and prepare tomorrow's leaders in special education.

Earn a doctorate in special education from one of the oldest and most respected Special Education Departments in the United States. Slippery Rock University began preparing special educators in 1961 and has been viewed as a leader in the field for over five decades. Faculty members are scholars in the field with the knowledge and practical experience to help develop tomorrow's leaders in special education. Our progressive online programs have received national attention and acclaim, being named as one of the top 25 online programs in the nation by Best Colleges Online since 2013. Additionally, Slippery Rock University's doctoral degree in special education has been ranked one of the best 25 programs in the country for 2019 by CollegeValueOnline.com. This program was also ranked No. 7 in one of the 20 most affordable online doctoral degrees in special education programs in the country by AffordableSchools.net for 2019. SRU's Special Education Department has been teaching online education for more than a decade and understands what working professionals need. Come and join our Special Education Doctoral Program cohort and begin realizing your dream.

Our Ed.D. in Special Education is convenient and offers a student-centered blend of online courses (synchronous and asynchronous). The program is cohort-based and can be completed in three years, by taking an average of approximately two classes each term.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Slippery Rock University's Ed.D. in Special Education offers the following:

- A new cohort that begins every spring term
- The possibility to apply a maximum of 12 master's degree credits towards the doctoral degree
- A competitive curriculum that focuses on special education, content learning, and leadership. The classes are designed to prepare future special education leaders to enter public schools, agencies, and non-profit organizations
- Experienced faculty with practical experience

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must submit the following materials along with a completed online graduate application and non-refundable application fee of \$35.00:

- Copy of Teaching Certificate (optional)
- A 300-500 word essay indicating personal and professional goals (follow all APA formatting)
- A writing sample: Applicants can submit an example of a special education focused sample from your graduate program or a one - to two-page, single-spaced essay addressing one of the following topics (include the prompt that you choose at the top of your essay and follow all APA formatting)
  1. Why should a society provide a "free and appropriate" education to students with disabilities who will not be able to achieve academic or other skills at the same level as students without disabilities?
  2. Describe your position on the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education. What are the benefits of inclusion and the potential barriers?
- Two Letters of Recommendation addressing the applicant's academic and/or professional background as it relates to special education
- Candidate must have earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education, special education, early childhood, secondary (English, science, social studies, psychology, business or core content knowledge)
- Official bachelor's and master's degree transcripts, doctorate, if applicable. (bachelor's degree with at least 3.0 GPA and master's degree with at least 3.5 GPA)

Preference is given to applicants in the order in which the application is received.



**Competitive curriculum that  
focuses on preparing school  
leaders in special education,  
content learning, and leadership.  
Ranked top 25 in the US for  
best online doctoral programs  
in special education.**

**SlipperyRock  
University**

A member of Pennsylvania's State System  
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)

## CURRICULUM

### Research Requirement

<b>Select 12 credits of the following:</b>	<b>12</b>
SEFE 802 Univariate Statistical Methods	
SEFE 896 Elements of Qualitative Education	
SEFE 899 Elements of Quantitative Educational Research	
SPED 841 Applied Behavior Analysis/Single-Subject Experimental Design I	
SPED 865 Research in ABA	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12</b>

### Content And Leadership Requirement

<b>Select 18 credits of the following:</b>	<b>18</b>
SPED 805 Legal Issues and Special Populations	
SPED 820 Contemporary Issues in Special Education	
SPED 842 Program Development for Students with ASD	
SPED 845 Instructional Technologies for Exceptional Learners	
SPED 850 School Supervision: Community and Political Leadership	
SPED 852 School Supervision: Instructional Leadership	
ELEC 813 Advocacy and Family, School and Community Engagement	
SEFE 844 Instructional Design: Principles and Practice	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18</b>

### Special Education Requirement

<b>Select at least 15 credits of the following: 15</b>	
SPED 802 Special Education Foundations	
SPED 805 Legal Issues and Special Populations	
SPED 807 Positive Classroom Interventions	
SPED 808 Applied Behavior Analysis Single-Subject Experimental Design II	
SPED 809 Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities	
SPED 820 Contemporary Issues in Special Education	
SPED 842 Program Development for Students with ASD	
SPED 843 Communication and Social Competency for Students with ASD	
SPED 844 Neuropsychiatric Disorders of Childhood	
SPED 845 Instructional Technologies for Exceptional Learners	
SPED 850 School Supervision: Community and Political Leadership	
SPED 852 School Supervision: Instructional Leadership	
ELEC 813 Advocacy and Family, School and Community Engagement	
SEFE 844 Instructional Design: Principles and Practice	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>

### Dissertation Core

SPED 881 Dissertation Seminar	3
SPED 899 Dissertation	12
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>60</b>

## CLEARANCES

Clearances are due no later than one (1) week prior to deadline for course registration for each program's practicum/field experience- ----no student will be permitted to register for their program's practicum and take part in practicum/field experiences without clearances on file at SRU. Please refer to the graduate website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate) and select "Requirements by Program" to learn more.

## TUITION

Information on current tuition can be found on the Graduate Admissions website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate). Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office [www.sru.edu/FinAid](http://www.sru.edu/FinAid).

## FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:

Dr. Ashlea Rineer-Hershey  
 Graduate Coordinator  
 114 McKay Education Building  
 724.738.2460  
[a.rineer-hershey@sru.edu](mailto:a.rineer-hershey@sru.edu)

## FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:

Office of Graduate Admissions  
 104 North Hall, Welcome Center  
 Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)  
 724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD  
[graduate.admissions@sru.edu](mailto:graduate.admissions@sru.edu)

The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.