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 in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. 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. The next cohort starts spring 2019.

Our Ed.D. in Special Education is convenient and offers a student-centered blend of online courses (synchronous and asynchronous) in the fall, winter, and spring semesters, with a residency requirement during the summer terms along with possible online courses. The program is cohort-based and can be completed in three years, by taking an average of two classes each term.
Admission Requirements

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

- Online Application
- Official bachelor's and master's degree transcripts, doctorate if applicable. (GPA requirements - undergraduate GPA of a 3.0 and graduate degree with a 3.5 or higher)
- Candidate must have an earned undergraduate degree in elementary education, special education early childhood education, or a secondary content specific discipline such as English, Social Studies, Science, or psychology, business or a related area.
- Two letters of recommendation from references who can articulate the applicant's academic background
- A copy of teacher certification or licensure
- A 300-500 word essay indicating the applicant's personal and professional goals

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

Curriculum (60 Credits)

Research Core (12 Credits)
SEFE 802: Univariate Statistical Methods
SEFE 803: Multivariate Statistical Methods
SEFE 808: Research Methods for Teacher Leadership
SEFE 896: Elements of Qualitative Research

Content and Leadership Core (18 Credits)
SPED 805: Legal Issues and Special Populations
ELEC 813: Advocacy and Family, School, and Community Engagement
SPED 820: Contemporary Issues in Special Education
SEFE 844: Instructional Design: Principles and Practice
SPED 845: Instructional Technologies for Exceptional Learners
SPED 850: Political and Community Leadership
SPED 852: Instructional Leadership

Special Education Core (15 Credits)
SPED 801: Advanced Study of Learning Disabilities
SPED 802: Special Education Foundations
SPED 807: Positive Classroom Interventions
SPED 808: Applied Behavior Analysis Single-Subject Experimental Design II
SPED 809: Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities
SPED 841: Applied Behavior Analysis/Single-Subject Experimental Design
SPED 842: Program Development for Students with ASD
SPED 843: Communication and Social Competency for Students with ASD
SPED 844: Neuropsychiatric Disorders of Childhood

Dissertation Core (15 Credits)
SPED 881: Dissertation Seminar
SPED 899: Dissertation

Tuition and Graduate Assistantships

Information on current tuition and graduate assistantships can be found on the main Graduate Admissions website at www.sru.edu/graduate. Financial Aid brochures are available through Financial Aid Office or the Office of Graduate Admissions.

For questions about academics and course scheduling:
Dr. Richael Barger-Anderson
Graduate Coordinator
McKay Education Building
724.738.2873
richael.barger-ander@sru.edu

For questions about admissions:
Office of Graduate Admissions
105 North Hall, Welcome Center
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD
graduate.admissions@sru.edu
www.sru.edu/graduate

*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 it 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.*