

SPECIAL EDUCATION

DOCTORATE OF EDUCATION
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

www.sru.edu/speddoc



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) 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.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

- A new cohort that begins every other spring semester.
- 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:

- 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 the application is received.

SlipperyRock
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

www.sru.edu/graduate

CURRICULUM (60 CREDITS)

Research Requirements (12 Credits)

Select four courses from list.

- SEFE 802: Univariate Statistical Methods
- SEFE 896: Elements of Qualitative Research
- SEFE 899: Elements of Quantitative Educational Research
- SPED 841: Applied Behavior Analysis/Single Subject Experimental Design I
- SPED 865: Research in Applied Behavior Analysis

Content and Leadership Requirements (18 Credits)

Select six courses from list.

- ELEC 813: Advocacy and Family, School and Community Engagement
- SEFE 844: Instructional Design: Principles and Practice
- 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: Political and Community Leadership
- SPED 852: Instructional Leadership

Special Education Requirements (15 Credits)

Select five courses from list.

- 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 Technology for Exceptional Learners
- SPED 850: Political & Community Leadership
- SPED 852: Instructional Leadership

Dissertation Core (15 Credits)

- SPED 881: Dissertation Seminar
- SPED 899: Dissertation (12 credits)

TUITION AND ASSISTANTSHIPS

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

PROGRAM AWARD



FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:

Dr. Ashlea Rineer-Hershey
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724.738.2460
ashlea.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
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD
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.