

EDUCATION (PH.D.) - SPECIAL EDUCATION

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2024 through summer 2025. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

This is a non-licensure degree. Completion of this degree will not lead to the eligibility of a state educator license in Virginia or a license or certificate in any other state for endorsements in teaching, special education, content specialist, or school building-level administration.

Code	Title	Hours
Education Core Courses		
EDUC 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
EDUC 730 or EDUC 745	Issues & Trends in Learning Technologies ¹ Organizational Analysis and Problem Solving	3
Total Hours		9

¹ Intensive format optional

Code	Title	Hours
Special Education Concentration		
EDSP 722	History and Future of Special Education	3
EDSP 723	Administration and Supervision of Special Education	3
EDSP 724	Collaboration and Communication in Special Education	3
EDSP 725	Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education	3
EDSP 726	Disability and Learning	3
EDSP 727	Critical Review of Special Education Literature	3
Total Hours		18

Code	Title	Hours
Research Courses		
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
EDUC 980	Research Concepts & Methodology ¹	3
Choose one of the following:		3
EDUC 915	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research	
EDUC 917	Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	
Total Hours		18

¹ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase (after completion of EDUC 980), he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I ¹	5
EDUC 988	Dissertation II ¹	5
EDUC 989	Dissertation III ¹	5
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
Total Hours		15

¹ Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, EDUC 988, and EDUC 989 only one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 60 hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful defense of dissertation
- Degree must be completed within 7 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Online Format Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDSP 722	History and Future of Special Education	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
EDSP 724	Collaboration and Communication in Special Education	3
		Hours
		12
Second Semester		
EDSP 727	Critical Review of Special Education Literature	3
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 730 or EDUC 745	Issues & Trends in Learning Technologies ¹ or Organizational Analysis and Problem Solving	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
		Hours
		12
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDSP 725	Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education	3

Course	Title	Hours
EDSP 726	Disability and Learning	3
Hours		12
Second Semester		
EDSP 723	Administration and Supervision of Special Education	3
EDUC 915 or EDUC 917	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research or Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 980	Research Concepts & Methodology ²	3
Hours		9
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 988	Dissertation II ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Fourth Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 989	Dissertation III ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		60

¹ Intensive Format optional

² Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, they must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

³ Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, 988, and 989 only one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education.