Applying to the Doctoral Program

Required Pre-Application Interviews

Interested applicants must complete in-person or phone interviews with the Department Chair and at least one other faculty member prior to beginning the application process.

Application Process

Applications for the doctoral program are reviewed on a rolling admissions basis (see http://special-ed.utah.edu/prospective/index.php).

Applicants must submit the following to the online ApplyYourself system at the U of U:

1. Application for Admission to the Doctoral Program
2. Statement of Professional Goals and Research Interests
3. Written Response on Critical Issue in the Field
4. Transcripts from the University of Utah and all colleges or universities attended
5. GRE Test Scores
6. Three Letters of Recommendation (at least two addressing capacity for academic work)

Helpful Websites

Department of Special Education: special-ed.utah.edu
University of Utah Homepage: utah.edu
Financial Aid & Scholarship: financialaid.utah.edu
Graduate School: gradschool.utah.edu
Utah State Office of Education: schools.utah.gov

Contact the Department of Special Education

Academic Advisor
801-581-8121 or spedadvisor@utah.edu

Department Chair
Susan Johnston
801-581-5187 or susan.johnston@utah.edu

special-ed.utah.edu
The mission of the Department’s doctoral program is to prepare leaders to develop and disseminate knowledge that will improve the education of students with disabilities through research, teaching, and service in institutions of higher education conducting research and teacher preparation.

The PhD program prepares doctoral candidates for faculty positions in higher education with specializations in Early Childhood Special Education, Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Severe Disabilities, Visual Impairments, Deafblind, and Applied Behavior Analysis/Positive Behavioral Support (including BCBA).

The PhD program is competency- and field-based to prepare candidates for diverse faculty roles and responsibilities, with a focus on disseminating scientific research and its translation into effective practices.

**General Department Support**

Students are allowed to work up to a maximum of 20 hours per week outside the University. The Department periodically has funds available to provide some stipend support, although the level may vary from year to year. Attempts are made to provide stipend support at a level that will provide partial or full coverage of tuition costs.

**Departmental Course Teaching**

The Program includes coursework on university teaching and a required teaching internship. Following completion of these students may have the opportunity to be paid to teach courses in their areas of expertise.

**Department, College, and University Scholarships**

The Department periodically receives funding for student scholarships for which doctoral students may be eligible.

Additional funding may be available at the College and University levels. Further information about these possible funding sources can be found at [http://education.utah.edu/students/financial-aid.php](http://education.utah.edu/students/financial-aid.php)