

**KANSAS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

College of Education

Doctor of Education in  
**Special  
Education**

August 2011

**Graduate Studies**

# Doctor of Education in Special Education

Kansas State University  
College of Education  
Department of Special Education, Counseling and Student Affairs

*Preparing Educators to be Knowledgeable, Ethical, Caring Decision Makers*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Special Education, Counseling, and Student Affairs is:

- To prepare knowledgeable, ethical, caring decision makers for students with special educational needs in the context of diverse and inclusive social groups, communities, families, and students.
- To prepare specialists to serve students and families with specific educational needs through:
  - a) assessment and intervention
  - b) leadership and collaboration
  - c) clinical application, research, and practice

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to graduate study is granted by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the faculty in the graduate program. Applicants seeking admission to this degree program must submit the information as noted below. *All materials must be received before review will begin.*

Complete the Graduate School Application online and pay the application fee. All other materials must be sent either as an electronic file or as a hard copy to:

Office of Graduate Studies  
College of Education  
18 Bluemont Hall  
1100 Mid-Campus Drive  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506-5301  
785-532-5595  
[ddeam@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeam@ksu.edu)

To be eligible for this program, applicants must have:

- An appropriate undergraduate major similar to K-State's from an accredited institution,
- Relevant professional experience within education or related fields (described in the applicant's "Statement of Goals and Professional Experience"), and
- A master's degree in Special Education or a related field.

- A. A Completed Graduate School Application.** The application may be completed online by going to [www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/apply/index.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/apply/index.htm). It is highly recommended that the application for admission be submitted online.

**Application Deadlines.** The College of Education accepts applications throughout the year. However, the deadlines noted below have been established for admission to start in a particular semester. Failure to meet the deadline for a particular semester could delay admission into the program. *The Graduate School application and all additional documentation must be received by the following deadline dates for admission in a particular semester.*

Domestic Students	Fall Semester	— March 1
	Spring Semester	— October 1
	Summer Semester	— February 1
International Students	Fall Semester	— February 1
	Spring Semester	— August 1
	Summer Semester	— December 1

- B. Graduate School Application Fee.**

*Domestic Students*—A \$40 application fee is required for all domestic students; *your application will not be processed without this fee.* When applying online, you may pay by credit card. If mailing a paper copy of the completed application, please make a check payable to the KSU Graduate School and include it with your application.

*International Students*—A \$55 application fee is required; *your application will not be processed without this fee.* When applying online, you may pay by credit card. If mailing a paper copy of the completed application, please pay with an international cashier's check or money order (in U.S. funds) payable to the KSU Graduate School and include it with your application. Cash or personal checks cannot be accepted from international students.

- C. OFFICIAL transcripts.**

*Paper Transcripts*—Send TWO official transcripts from the institution awarding the bachelor's degree and TWO official transcripts from all the institutions attended since completion of the bachelor's degree. If you have credits from K-State, we will obtain a copy of your K-State transcript at no cost to you. *Copies of transcripts that are stamped "issued to student" will not be accepted.*

*Digital Transcripts*—Send any digital transcripts to the following email address: [ddeam@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeam@ksu.edu). Some institutions are now sending transcripts in a digital format (e.g., a PDF). The digital transcript must be sent directly from the college or university you attended to the email address indicated above.

- D. Statement of Goals and Professional Experience.** Submit a 1-2 page statement that includes the following information:

- Career and professional goals and aspirations, and how being accepted to the program will benefit the goals and aspirations
- Any research interests
- Past and present employment within education or related fields
- Future professional plans (i.e., Upon completion of the degree, do you plan to stay in your current position? If not, what type of position would you like to seek?)
- If you have a request for a certain advisor, indicate that preference in the statement.

Send your Statement of Goals as an electronic file to [ddeam@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeam@ksu.edu) or as a hard copy to the address for the Office of Graduate Studies provided above.

- E. Graduate Record Exam (GRE).** Each applicant must submit scores taken within the past five years on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Priority for admission is given to applicants with scores at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on each part of the GRE. Applicants with one or more scores below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile may be considered for probationary admission if there is credible evidence of potential for success, such as a strong academic record.

*The Graduate Record Exam (GRE).* This exam has three parts: verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing. Applicants are strongly encouraged to go to the GRE website to become familiar with the exam, identify ways to prepare for the exam, and to register to take the exam. The GRE website is: [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre).

When registering for the GRE, you will be asked to record codes for where you want your scores sent and for the field of study of your intended graduate program. Use the following codes on the GRE registration form when applying to this degree program:

Institutional code for <b>Kansas State University</b>	<b>6334</b>
Field of Study: <b>Special Education</b>	<b>3705</b>

- F. Letters of Recommendation.** *Three* letters of recommendation are needed from college or university educators and/or colleagues or supervisors who are qualified to address your professional skills and your potential for success in the graduate program. People who write letters of recommendation should send them as an electronic file to [ddeam@ksu.edu](mailto:ddeam@ksu.edu) or as a hard copy to the address for the Office of Graduate Studies provided above.
- G. An Interview.** Once the all application materials have been received by the College of Education Office of Graduate Studies, the department will contact the applicant to schedule an interview. Interviews are conducted to learn about the applicant's interest and compatibility with this degree program.
- H. TOEFL.** Applicants whose native language is not English must submit a current TOEFL score (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The TOEFL is offered several times a year throughout the world by the Educational Testing Service ([www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)). The TOEFL school code for Kansas State University is **6334**. International applicants are advised to take the TOEFL as early as possible to avoid delays in the processing of their applications for admission. An applicant who has

received a degree in the last two years from a United States college or university is exempt from this requirement.

There are three types of TOEFL scores: paper-based TOEFL, computer-based TOEFL, and TOEFL IBT (internet-based TOEFL taken in real time). TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the initial test date. A score of at least **550** (paper-based test), **213** (computer-based test), or **79** (IBT-internet-based test) on the TOEFL is required to be considered for admission to the Graduate School.

- *For Regular Admission*—Applicants with scores of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (IBT-internet based) or above may be considered for regular admission.
- *For Possible Provisional Admission*—Applicants with scores between 550/213/79 and 599/249/99 may be admitted provisionally and must at the time of their enrollment demonstrate proficiency in reading and writing English and in understanding spoken American English to the satisfaction of the Graduate School. Those who do not meet the minimum proficiency standard will be required to complete specified courses offered by the English Language Program (ELP) at Kansas State University. For additional information about the English Language Program, go to [www.ksu.edu/elp](http://www.ksu.edu/elp).

For additional information about admission requirements for international students, go to Chapter 1 of the Graduate Handbook at [www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/chap1.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/chap1.htm) and to the International Students section of the Graduate Viewbook at [www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/viewbook/intrnl.htm](http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gsprospective/viewbook/intrnl.htm)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Faculty Contact in the Program.** For more information, contact:

Dr. Warren J. White  
Department of Special Education, Counseling, and Student Affairs  
College of Education  
312 Bluemont Hall  
1100 Mid-Campus Drive  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506-5312  
785-532-6349 or 785-532-5541  
[wwhite@ksu.edu](mailto:wwhite@ksu.edu)

**Non-Degree Status.** In some cases, a student may wish to take a course(s) prior to being admitted in a degree program. In these cases, a person must be admitted as a non-degree student. Students may take *up to nine graduate credit hours* as a non-degree student in the Graduate School prior to being admitted into a graduate degree program. However, *successful completion of any hours taken as a non-degree seeking student does not guarantee admission into the program.* Non-degree students are not eligible for financial assistance.

**Graduate Handbook.** Once admitted, students should become familiar with the Graduate Handbook at [www.ksu.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/index.htm](http://www.ksu.edu/grad/gscurrent/handbook/index.htm). This handbook includes policies and procedures about advising, the program of study, enrollment, transfer credits, the final oral/written exam, required approval forms, and other aspects of the graduate program.

**Virtual Orientation for New Graduate Students.** The Graduate School recommends that all new graduate students complete the virtual orientation prior to coming to campus. The website for this orientation is [www.ksu.edu/grad/gsprospective/orientation/about.htm](http://www.ksu.edu/grad/gsprospective/orientation/about.htm). There is valuable information concerning housing options, orientation dates, registration and enrollment procedures, and many other aspects of the campus. By completing this virtual orientation, you should become familiar with what to expect when you arrive on campus.

**Graduate Assistantships.** A limited number of graduate assistantships are available in the College of Education. Go to [www.coe.ksu.edu/grad/assistantships.htm](http://www.coe.ksu.edu/grad/assistantships.htm) for detailed information and application procedures. Assistantships are commonly available for the academic year (fall and spring semesters). To apply for a graduate assistantship, a letter of application and a resume should be submitted by April 1 to each department for which the applicant would like to be considered. It is helpful to talk with the appropriate department chair as early as possible to learn of assistantships available in the department.

**Financial Aid.** Questions about financial assistance should be directed to the Student Financial Assistance Office, 104 Fairchild Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, 785-532-6420, [ksusfa@ksu.edu](mailto:ksusfa@ksu.edu). For information regarding financial aid, you may go to [www.ksu.edu/sfa](http://www.ksu.edu/sfa).

**Major Professor and Supervisory Committee.** Once admitted to the program, an advisor (often called the major professor) is assigned. In consultation with the major professor, the student selects three additional graduate faculty members, whose interests support the student's work, to serve on the supervisory committee. The student's supervisory committee must have at least one member from another discipline. The supervisory committee guides the student in the development of a program of study and in the formulation of research and clinical experiences.

# Program Requirements for the Ed.D. in Special Education

94 credit hours

A minimum of 94 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate degree is required. Up to 30 graduate hours earned as part of a Master's degree may be used to satisfy the following requirements with the approval of the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate School.

Each student's program of study is individualized with the approval of the major professor and the supervisory committee to optimize the student's interests, expertise, and professional goals.

## **A. Area of Emphasis (48 credits)**

### **B. Foundations (12 credits)**

For each category, take the course listed or its equivalent.

1. Techniques and Interpretation of Educational Research  
EDCEP 816 Research Methods in Education
2. Historical and Philosophical Analysis of Educational Ideas and Practice  
EDLEA 810 Historical and Philosophical Analysis of Leadership in Education
3. Social Science Explorations of Educating a Diverse Society  
EDCI 910 Multicultural Curriculum Programming
4. Behavioral Bases of Educational Thought and Practice  
EDCEP 912 Psychological Bases of Educational Thought and Practice

### **C. Research Courses (6 credits minimum)**

Research courses concerning methodology consistent with that required for the dissertation. Two courses typically used to meet research expectations include:

- EDCEP 817 Statistical Methods in Education
- EDCEP 917 Experimental Design in Educational Research

### **D. Clinical Experience (12 hours)**

The clinical experience is designed to enhance one's professional development by providing field-based exposure to the process of administration and supervision of special education programs and personnel. Objectives, activities, and outcomes for this clinical experience/internship are commonly determined by the major professor (advisor), in consultation with the student and the supervisory committee.

### **E. Dissertation Research (16 credits)**

Completion of a dissertation which treats an important topic of professional education practice using a systematic methodology consistent with accepted research paradigms. The dissertation must be successfully defended in a public, oral defense. The dissertation work is closely supervised by the major professor, with the guidance of the supervisory committee.

## Graduate Faculty in Special Education

For more information on this program, contact any of the following faculty members. The area code is 785.

Graduate Faculty	Phone Number	Research and Teaching Interests
Tim Frey <i>tfrey@ksu.edu</i>	523-5900	On-line learning in teacher education and professional development, the impact of teacher education on K-12 students with special needs and utilizing educational technology in special education for students with mild/moderate disabilities, instructional design, high incidence disabilities (EBD, LD, ID), social skills instruction.
Marilyn Kaff <i>mkaff@ksu.edu</i>	532-5901	Impact of educational policy decisions at the federal, state, and local level on special educators and students with disabilities (K-16), teacher education/professional development, students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, college students with disabilities.
Ann Knackendoffel <i>knack@ksu.edu</i>	532-5818	Learning disabilities, collaboration between teachers, learning strategies, students with attention deficit disorder, UDL (Universal Design for Learning), differentiated instruction, collaboration/teaming problem solving.
James Teagarden <i>mrt@ksu.edu</i>	532-5923	Proactive assessment procedures for children with behavioral concerns, functional behavioral assessment process, role of positive supports for behavior management, aggressive violent behavior, emotional behavior disorders, classroom management, applied behavioral analysis, social skill instruction.
Linda P. Thurston <i>lpt@ksu.edu</i>	532-6943	Behavior management, applied behavior analysis, parent and family life skills, gender issues, rural and poverty issues, distance education.
Warren J. White <i>wwhite@ksu.edu</i>	532-6349	Intellectual disabilities, adult adjustment, vocational planning, training, and transition.