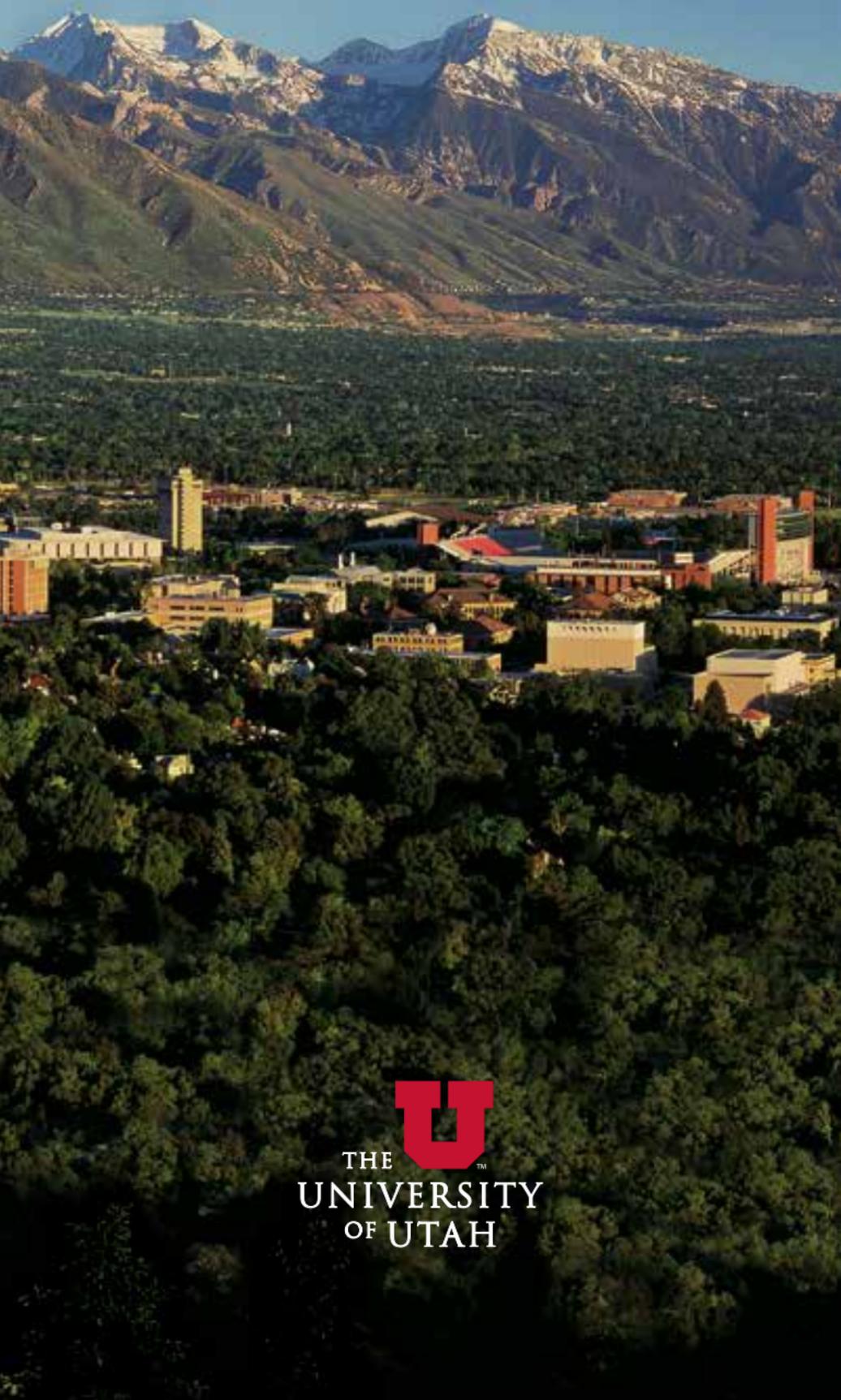


Graduate Studies

Department of Special Education
College of Education





*Working directly
with children is a
key element of all
degree programs.*



*Experience Utah's
natural beauty*



GRADUATE STUDIES IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

PROGRAMS

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Master of Science Degree

Master of Education Degree

Master of Philosophy Degree

LICENSURE PROGRAMS

Mild/Moderate Disabilities

Severe Disabilities

Early Childhood Special Education (birth - 5)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Visual Impairments

Deafblind Education

Department of Special Education

Rob O'Neill, Chair

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Special Education, located within the College of Education, provides statewide and national leadership in research, instruction, and service for children and young adults with disabilities. Through its licensure and degree programs, the Department promotes a philosophy of life-long learning aimed at preparing professionals to effectively study the field and teach learners with various disabilities.

The faculty is committed to preparing educators to be dynamic and contributing team members within diverse educational communities and settings. To that end, the Department actively plans, conducts, and supports applied educational research and model development. The Department uses its programs and services as resources for graduate students, attempting to continuously challenge and expand their skills as teachers and future education leaders.



THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY

Set in the foothills of the majestic Wasatch Mountains, the University of Utah combines academic excellence and a commitment to research in an atmosphere conducive to graduate study. As the flagship of Utah's higher education system, the University plays a leading role in fostering the development and preservation of the state's resources—both human and natural. Approximately 32,000 students represent the United States and the global community. A teaching faculty of approximately 2,900 (including clinical, adjunct, research, and visiting faculty) provides the stimulus for learning and achievement.

Ten minutes away is downtown Salt Lake City, core to a metropolitan community of over one million people and home to outstanding symphony, dance, and opera companies, well-established theaters, visual arts communities, and professional sports teams. Ready access to the mountains and a four-season climate invite participation in outdoor sports ranging from hiking and camping to unparalleled powder skiing. Five national parks in Utah provide some of the most spectacular and varied scenery in the United States.

PROGRAMS

Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.)

The doctoral program in the Department of Special Education is structured to prepare leadership personnel for universities and human service agencies. The program of study encourages development of the ability to analyze and synthesize existing knowledge as a basis for the creation and dissemination of new information. Graduates, therefore, are individuals who can extend the field's knowledge base, regardless of their professional role. Students entering the program are expected to have a substantial knowledge base and background in the design and implementation of service programs for persons with disabilities. In cases where promising applicants are deemed not to have such background, they may still be accepted for doctoral studies. They will, however, be required to enroll in additional course work and/or field experiences that will facilitate the development of the necessary prerequisite skills. All students in this degree program are expected to successfully complete a written qualifying examination, and complete a research-based dissertation. Please contact the Department's academic advisor for more information about the program and the process for admission.

Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy Degree (M.S./Ph.D.)

The Department of Special Education offers a combined Master of Science and Doctoral Program. The program is designed for students who do not hold a Master's degree in Special Education and are

interested in pursuing extended graduate study in the field. Students admitted to the program must complete the requirements for the M.S. in Special Education prior to initiating their doctoral work.

The M.S./Ph.D. program is structured to prepare leadership personnel for universities and human service agencies. Its goals are similar to the Ph.D. program, in that students will develop the ability to use information about existing instructional models and services and link it to the creation and dissemination of new information.

Students entering the program are expected to have direct experience in the design and implementation of service programs for persons who have disabilities. In cases where applicants are admitted to the program without such background, they will be asked to develop a plan of study with their committee for those elements of the M.S. program that address these needs.

Master of Science Degree (M.S.)

The Master of Science program offers a research-oriented, academic degree that prepares students with the knowledge and conceptual base needed to undertake the study of special education as a scientific endeavor. Applicants may have a variety of personal and professional goals in mind, reflecting both the range of services for learners with exceptionalities, and the leadership and scholarly aspirations of the candidate. Common to each student, however, should be a commitment to excellence, as demonstrated through ability to effectively implement and communicate "best practices."

Each program of study blends the student's interests with advanced courses in special education and research. With the approval of the student's supervisory committee, the M.S. program may emphasize one of the Department's licensure areas, or be tailored around a specific subject area or need. All students in this degree program are expected to successfully complete a written qualifying examination, and a research-based thesis.



Master of Education Degree (M.Ed.)

The Master of Education program provides advanced professional preparation for careers in the public schools. The degree may be earned in conjunction with a teaching license (see Licensure Programs), or may simply be structured to provide the student with more in-depth professional training in a given instructional area.

Students seeking a teaching credential complete a licensure sequence. Students not seeking a teaching credential select a professional practice emphasis and begin their studies with completion of a core of Department courses that have been proposed and approved by the student's committee.

Typically, professional emphasis is in the area of Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Severe Disabilities, Early Childhood Special Education (birth - 5), Visual Impairments, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Education. All students proceed through advanced graduate studies in special education and related fields. All students seeking to earn a M.Ed. close their studies with the successful completion of a written comprehensive examination.

LICENSURE PROGRAMS

The Department of Special Education offers five programs that lead to state licensure:

- Mild/Moderate Disabilities
- Severe Disabilities
- Early Childhood Special Education (birth - 5)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Visual Impairments
- Deafblind Education



The total credit hours to fulfill licensing requirements vary for each area. Each program requires completion of the teacher education core in special education and a sequence of specialization courses in the particular field of study. The teacher education core has been designed to provide the student with skills in essential areas of assessment, instructional design and management, behavior management, collaboration, curriculum, and legal issues in special education.

Specialization courses expand upon the skills and methods that have been introduced through the teacher education core. The courses introduce specific educational strategies that are effective for particular student populations. Each program has been structured to develop the required skills through hands-on, practical learning opportunities; therefore, the different programs provide multiple field-based experiences. Such experiences within each program area give graduate students the opportunity to observe, question, test, and modify different instructional techniques under the guidance of a trained cooperating teacher and Department faculty.

Upon successful completion of all program requirements, students are recommended for licensure to the Utah State Office of Education. They may then opt to complete additional requirements for a master's degree.

FACULTY

The Department is committed to prepare qualified professionals who are ready to meet the educational needs of children with exceptionalities. A total of 14 tenure-track and clinical/support faculty serve the Department. Faculty are involved in the graduate and licensure programs through teaching, practicum supervision, research, and student advising. In addition to research specializations in particular areas of disabilities, faculty members have research interests that include:

- Supported inclusion
- Transition
- Professional ethics
- Educational reform
- Disability law and policy
- Reading/literacy
- School-wide behavior support
- Assessment of special learning needs
- Augmentative/alternative communication
- Early intervention

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A variety of scholarship and tuition support opportunities exist for students admitted to the Department. All require formal application and typically have preset deadlines. Interested individuals should contact the academic advisor for options and details.

Two departmental scholarships—the Harker-Ferguson Scholarship and the Michael Foundation Scholarship—are available to students based upon merit. They require admission to the Severe Disability Program or Mild/Moderate Disability Program, respectively. In addition, the Steffensen Cannon Scholarships are open to all students within the College of Education. This award provides students with an annual stipend while also covering all tuition costs.

Several other options may be available for students. Graduate assistantships, tuition waivers, and work-study opportunities often are available through grant projects or the Department. Students in the doctoral

program may be eligible for tuition waivers and annual stipends. Annual awards are also available through the Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program. Students are encouraged to contact the Department's academic advisor, the College of Education website with financial aid and scholarship information at <http://education.utah.edu/scholarships/index.php>, and/or the University Financial Aid and Scholarships Office for more information and new scholarship opportunities.

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The application process for admission begins by contacting the Department's academic advisor for information on timelines, criteria, and the forms needed for entry into the University of Utah Graduate School. Depending on the licensure or degree program desired, applicants must take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

The Graduate Admissions Office has implemented a new online application process called **APPLYYOURSELF** at <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=utahgrad>

Students must fill out the following items:

- Application
- Names and addresses of authors writing three letters of recommendation
- Written professional statement
- Resume

Students must **upload** the following:

- Test scores
- Transcripts

Admission to the Graduate School is required for all prospective students in special education. The process for entry, however, begins with a departmental committee review that leads to a recommendation for admission to the Graduate School as a matriculated student. Twice annually, the Department of Special Education Admissions Committee reviews candidate files for admission. Individuals seeking admission in the summer or fall semester must have their files completed and submitted to the departmental



academic advisor by March 1. The deadline for spring semester is November 1. No application will be considered without official GRE test scores.

The Department strongly encourages applications from qualified individuals, including those from diverse cultural and ethnic groups, and those with disabilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patty Davis, Academic Advisor

Department of Special Education

1705 East Campus Center Drive, MBH 303C

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

(801) 581-4764 or (801) 581-8121

FAX (801) 585-6476

patty.davis@utah.edu

special-ed.utah.edu

NONDISCRIMINATION AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 201 South Presidents Circle, Rm. 135, Salt Lake City, UT, 84112, 801-581-8365 (voice/tdd), 801-585-5746 (fax), or online at: www.oeo.utah.edu.

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DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION