The Specialist in Education Degree

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This degree is designed for professionals in education and human services areas who want increased competence in a field of specialization. Areas of specialization are offered in the various departments in the College of Education.

Admission

Scholarship, interpersonal orientation and potential for leadership are considered in the screening procedure. Appropriate experience in teaching or a leadership position in education or a human services area is requisite. All work beyond the baccalaureate must have been of high quality with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Advisory Committee

The specialist student works under the direction of an advisory committee composed of three members recommended by the appropriate department/program head or chair. All must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The committee chair (or one of the co-chairs) must be a graduate faculty member in the department/program granting the degree. This committee will approve the student’s program of study, conduct required examinations and direct the required field project. Students in a teaching field (e.g., music education, science education, foreign language education) work under a committee composed of two members from the College of Education and one member from a related academic field.

Requirements for Degree

A minimum of 30 semester hours beyond the master’s degree must be taken in a program approved by the student’s advisory committee. The Plan of Study should be submitted to the Graduate School at least one term before the term in which the student plans to graduate. Professional educators pursuing sixth-year certification are responsible for adapting their Plans of Study to requirements in the states in which they will need advanced certification. A relevant field project, approved in advance by the student’s committee, must be completed under the supervision of the major professor. A final written report on the field project will be submitted to the advisory committee by the student. The advisory committee will conduct a final examination on the area of specialization and the field project.

No student will be permitted to graduate who fails to submit a Plan of Study and graduation check to the Graduate School prior to the semester of expected graduation. Graduation day is the official last day of each semester and, therefore, is the deadline for submitting Plans of Study for graduation the following semester.

Time Limit

All graduate work toward an Education Specialist degree must be completed within a period of six calendar years. The student’s time to completion begins with the earliest completed course approved for inclusion in the plan of study.