

ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL STUDIES (PH.D.) - SPECIAL EDUCATION

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. 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 Elective Courses ¹		
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Education Elective ²		3
Total Hours		21

¹ Equivalent courses from a conferred Ed.D. or Ph.D. from a regionally accredited institution, including credit from an Ed.D. previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree. Only 15 credit hours of Graduate Level (500-600) courses may be transferred, all other courses must be Doctoral Level (700-900)

² Choose a 500-800 level EDUC course not already required by the degree

Code	Title	Hours
Special Education Cognate ¹		
Choose three of the following courses:		9
EDSP 722	History and Future of Special Education	
EDSP 724	Collaboration and Communication in Special Education	
EDSP 725	Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education	
EDSP 726	Disability and Learning	
EDUC 721	Issues and Trends in Exceptionality	
Total Hours		9

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Code	Title	Hours
Research Courses ¹		
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3

Code	Title	Hours
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
Total Hours		9

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Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses ¹		
EDDR 915	Quantitative Dissertation Topic and Planning	3
or EDDR 917	Qualitative Dissertation Topic and Planning	
EDDR 980	Quantitative Dissertation Prospectus	3
or EDDR 981	Qualitative Dissertation Prospectus	
EDDR 987	Dissertation I ²	5
EDDR 988	Dissertation II ²	5
EDDR 989	Dissertation III ²	5
EDDR 990	Dissertation IV	0
Total Hours		21

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

² Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDDR 987, EDDR 988, EDDR 989, 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 minimum of 21 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include from a prior degree earned through Liberty
- A maximum of 39 hours of transfer credit, including credit from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful defense of dissertation
- Degree must be completed within 5 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 Elective ^{1,2}		3
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3

Course	Title	Hours
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3
Hours		12
Second Semester		
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3
EDUC Elective ^{1,2}		3
Cognate Elective ³		3
Hours		12
Second Year		
First Semester		
Cognate Elective ³		3
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics ¹	3
Cognate Elective ³		3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research ¹	3
Hours		12
Second Semester		
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research ¹	3
EDDR 915 or EDDR 917	Quantitative Dissertation Topic and Planning ⁴ or Qualitative Dissertation Topic and Planning	3
Hours		6
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDDR 980 or EDDR 981	Quantitative Dissertation Prospectus ⁴ or Qualitative Dissertation Prospectus	3
Hours		3
Second Semester		
EDDR 987	Dissertation and Research I ^{4,5}	5
Hours		5
Fourth Year		
First Semester		
EDDR 988	Dissertation and Research II ^{4,5}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDDR 989	Dissertation and Research III ^{4,5}	5
EDDR 990	Dissertation and Research IV ⁴	0
Hours		5
Total Hours		60

⁵ Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDDR 987, 988, and 989 one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education.

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² Choose a 500-800 level EDUC course not already required by the degree.

³ Choose one of the following courses: EDSP 722, 724, 725, 726, or EDUC 721.

⁴ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed.