

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION (ED.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 and is not a state-approved program. Completion of this degree will not lead to the eligibility of a VA state teaching license or a teaching license or certificate in any other state.

Code	Title	Hours
Education Theory Courses		
EDUC 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
Total Hours		6

Code	Title	Hours
Curriculum & Instruction Core		
Choose four of the following courses:		12
EDUC 730	Issues & Trends in Learning Technologies ¹	
EDUC 735	Issues and Trends in Curriculum and Instruction	
EDUC 771	Curriculum Theory	
EDUC 871	Investigations in Curriculum Change	
EDUC 872	Research in Curriculum Design and Development	
Total Hours		12

¹ Intensive format optional

Code	Title	Hours
Special Education Cognate		
EDUC 721	Issues and Trends in Exceptionality	3
Choose two of the following courses:		6
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	
Total Hours		9

Code	Title	Hours
Research & Evaluation Courses		
EDUC 750	Survey of Educational Research ¹	3
EDUC 816	Applied Research	3
EDUC 850	Literature Review for Applied Research	3
EDUC 880	Applied Research Concepts & Methodology ^{2,3}	3
Total Hours		12

¹ A minimum of 20 Doctoral credit hours must be earned prior to enrollment in EDUC 750 Survey of Educational Research (3 c.h.)

² EDUC 880 Applied Research Concepts & Methodology (3 c.h.) must be the final course taken before enrolling in doctoral project courses

³ Once the students enters the doctoral project phase (after completion of EDUC 880 Applied Research Concepts & Methodology (3 c.h.)), he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

Code	Title	Hours
Capstone Project		
EDUC 887	Applied Doctoral Research I ¹	5
EDUC 888	Applied Doctoral Research II ¹	5
EDUC 889	Applied Doctoral Research III ¹	5
EDUC 890	Applied Doctoral Research IV ²	0
Total Hours		15

¹ Ed.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 887 Applied Doctoral Research I (5 c.h.), EDUC 888 Applied Doctoral Research II (5 c.h.), EDUC 889 Applied Doctoral Research III (5 c.h.) a maximum of two times. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education

² Enrollment in EDUC 890 Applied Doctoral Research IV (0 c.h.) is contingent on School of Education Approval

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 54 hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful completion of Capstone Project
- Degree must be completed within 7 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 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
EDSP Elective ¹		3
Core Elective ²		3
Hours		12
Second Semester		
EDUC 721	Issues and Trends in Exceptionality	3
EDSP Elective ¹		3
Core Elective ²		3
Core Elective ²		3
Hours		12

Course	Title	Hours
Second Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 750	Survey of Educational Research	3
Core Elective ²		3
EDUC 816	Applied Research	3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
EDUC 850	Literature Review for Applied Research	3
EDUC 880	Applied Research Concepts & Methodology	3
Hours		6
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 887	Capstone I	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 888	Capstone II	5
Hours		5
Fourth Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 889	Capstone III	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 890	Capstone IV	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		54

¹ Choose from the following courses: EDSP 722, 724, 725, or 726

² Choose from the following courses: EDUC 730, 735, 771, 871, or 872