

# EDUCATION (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
<b>Education Core Courses</b>		
EDUC 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
EDUC 730 or EDUC 745	Issues & Trends in Learning Technologies <sup>1</sup> Organizational Analysis and Problem Solving	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Intensive format optional

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Special Education Concentration</b>		
EDSP 722	History and Future of Special Education	3
EDSP 723	Administration and Supervision of Special Education	3
EDSP 724	Collaboration and Communication in Special Education	3
EDSP 725	Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education	3
EDSP 726	Disability and Learning	3
EDSP 727	Critical Review of Special Education Literature	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>18</b>

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Research Courses</b>		
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
EDUC 980	Quantitative Research Concepts and Methodology <sup>1</sup>	3
Choose one of the following:		3
EDUC 915	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research	
EDUC 917	Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>18</b>

<sup>1</sup> Once the student enters the Dissertation phase (after completion of EDUC 980), he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Dissertation Courses</b>		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I <sup>1</sup>	5
EDUC 988	Dissertation II <sup>1</sup>	5
EDUC 989	Dissertation III <sup>1</sup>	5
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>15</b>

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, EDUC 988, and EDUC 989 only 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 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 defense of dissertation
- 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
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
EDUC 701	Advanced Learning Theory and Research	3
EDSP 722	History and Future of Special Education	3
EDUC 703	Theories of Historical and Social Foundations of Education	3
EDSP 724	Collaboration and Communication in Special Education	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
EDSP 727	Critical Review of Special Education Literature	3
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 730 or EDUC 745	Issues & Trends in Learning Technologies <sup>1</sup> or Organizational Analysis and Problem Solving	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDSP 725	Assessment and Evaluation in Special Education	3

Course	Title	Hours
EDSP 726	Disability and Learning	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
EDSP 723	Administration and Supervision of Special Education	3
EDUC 915 or EDUC 917	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research or Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 980	Research Concepts & Methodology <sup>2</sup>	3
<b>Hours</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Third Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I <sup>2,3</sup>	5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
EDUC 988	Dissertation II <sup>2,3</sup>	5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Fourth Year</b>		
<b>First Semester</b>		
EDUC 989	Dissertation III <sup>2,3</sup>	5
<b>Hours</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Second Semester</b>		
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
<b>Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> Intensive Format optional

<sup>2</sup> Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, they must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

<sup>3</sup> Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, 988, and 989 only one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education.