

Ph.D. in Special Education



The Clemson University College of Education has produced award-winning teachers and leaders since its first teacher education classes offered in 1916. Now, our quality can be shared through our Ph.D. in special education.

About the Program

The Special Education Ph.D. program prepares scholars to be researchers, teacher educators and leaders in the field in order to address the needs of individuals with mild/moderate disabilities. The Ph.D. special education scholars will benefit from a faculty that has an individualized approach of study to meet their students' needs and enhance graduates' marketability for positions in higher education and leadership. The program is offered through a HyFlex option and can be completed through traditional face-to-face instruction or synchronous online instruction.

Program Goals

Graduates of the Ph.D. in special education program will:

- Develop, revise and implement an effective personnel preparation program by focusing on identification and implementation of evidence-based practices and culturally-responsive teaching practices
- Develop, implement, analyze and disseminate high-quality research related to the unique needs of students with disabilities and teachers in high-needs schools
- Design and implement research studies that meet high-quality research standards
- Provide high-quality, targeted professional development in academic and behavioral interventions for students with disabilities to teachers and leaders in high-needs schools
- Apply leadership skills in a variety of contexts (e.g., teaching in higher education, collaborating with school partners and involvement in professional organizations).

Exceptional Preparation at Clemson's College of Education



The College of Education's M.Ed. in Special Education program is ranked the #1 online graduate education program in the nation (*U.S. News*, 2024).



Clemson has made great strides in research in recent years, culminating in our distinction as a Carnegie R1: Doctoral University (highest research activity)



Our college is committed to transform education through innovation and collaboration, with renowned programs such as Call Me MISTER, STEAM Education, ClemsonLIFE, and Reading Recovery.

Apply Today!

The program admits students for fall entrance only. Please apply early to ensure consideration for an assistantship or University Fellowship. **Visit clemson.edu/graduate/admissions to start your application.**

Application deadlines are as follows:

January 15: Priority application deadline for graduate assistantship consideration (eligible applicants are enrolled full time)

April 15: Application deadline

For more information, email
coegrad@clemson.edu or visit
clemson.edu/education/academics.

APPLY TODAY!
clemson.edu/graduate/admissions

College of
Education at
Clemson University
© 2025