Doctor of Education in Special Education

Graduate Admission to the School of Education

Graduate programs in education are open to students with acceptable baccalaureate and graduate degrees whose academic records indicate that they can do successful work at the graduate level. Regular admission requires a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in prior degrees. Individual departments may require additional information and may have more stringent admission requirements.

Some departments may offer special provisional admission categories to students who may not qualify under regular admission criteria. Departments that offer provisional admission require a grade-point average of at least 2.5. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to work successfully at the graduate level, including experience in and commitment to the profession. Exceptions to established policies must be sought individually by petition to the Graduate Division of the School of Education.

See Admission in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog for more information.

Each department in the School of Education sets its own application deadlines. Prospective graduate students should contact their departments for more information.

Ed.D. Degree Program

The doctoral degree program encourages and supports students working with faculty in cutting-edge research and development related to effective education in the field of disabilities. The Ph.D. and Ed.D. programs are similar, but serve different needs for special educators seeking advanced knowledge and leadership skills. Both degrees require intensive and rigorous study in special education foundations, disability issues, curriculum, teaching, program development, and research. The Graduate Record Examination is required for admission.

Doctor of Education

This degree is designed for master special educators who seek leadership positions in public school and other agencies related to program leadership, administration, development, and evaluation. Students complete a sequence of courses emphasizing applied research knowledge and skills. Specific core and research courses for the Ed.D. are required. In addition to the special education and research skills cores, students complete a structured, supervised field internship and designated hours in one of the doctoral program's areas of specialization, and a dissertation.

Note: Contact your department or program for more information about research skills and responsible scholarship, and the current requirements for doctoral students. Current Lawrence and Edwards Campus policies on Doctoral Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship (https://documents.ku.edu/policies/Graduate_Studies/Research_Skills_and_Responsible_Scholarship.htm) are listed in the KU Policy Library.