Admissions Requirements

Admission to the Graduate College at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is governed by criteria established by the Board of Regents, University, Graduate College, and individual graduate programs. Completed applications including fees, and transcripts should be submitted to the Graduate College.

http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/admissions/

Other admission materials should be submitted to the Department of Educational and Clinical Studies. http://education.unlv.edu/ecs/doctoral/

Admissions Deadlines

U.S. Students
*For Fall Admission-March 1
*For Spring Admission-September 1
*No Summer Admission

International Students
*For Fall Admission-May 1
*For Spring Admission-October 1
*No Summer Admission

Financial Assistance

Assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships are the types of assistance available through the UNLV Graduate College.

Degree Requirements

The Department of Educational and Clinical Studies faculty create leadership programs to meet individual student needs and career goals in Special Education Administration and Higher Education.

A content core of this course of studies is required of all doctoral students. This content may not be waived. Students not admitted to either the doctoral program in Special Education (or to another doctoral program in the College of Education) may only enroll in ESP 782R and two other core classes prior to formal admission. In addition, students must

International students must also show competency in English with a minimum score of 20 in each area and a minimum total score of 80 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). https://www.ets.org/toefl

The application for admission to Doctoral Study in the Department of Educational and Clinical Studies must specify the major program of study (i.e., Ph.D and exceptionality area). In general, applicants are expected to have a 3.5 grade point average on all graduate-level work and indicate potential to successfully complete all requirements of doctoral studies (provided through submitted writings, letters of recommendation, GRE results, etc.). Incomplete application will not be considered. A complete application includes:

1. A letter of application that clearly articulates the applicant’s professional goals and research interests as related to the Ph.D. program.
2. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts showing grade point averages and receipt of a post baccalaureate degree in special education or a related field.
3. Three letters of recommendation. At least one letter must be from an individual familiar with the applicant’s academic performance and at least one from an individual knowledgeable of the applicant’s quality of work experience.
4. Representative samples of scholarly writing, preferably in APA style, and/or other media samples related to professional study.
5. A professional resume that includes a description of the applicant’s professional preparation and a minimum of 2-3 years of professional experience in special education, general education, or other relevant field as a teacher, administrator or related service provider.

6. Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores (not more than five years before the date of application). The department does not impose minimum GRE scores.
7. Financial forms if seeking a Graduate Assistantship.
8. Other information, such as a personal interview, may be requested by the department admissions committee.

Applications are rated based on the match between program characteristics, stated goals, and professional commitment; evidence of an ability to complete doctoral studies and a potential for leadership; and the quality of writing and media samples as compared to those of other pre-doctoral graduate students.

Graduate assistantships provide a monthly stipend and tuition/fee waivers. Applications and all supporting materials must be sent to the Graduate College no later than March 1 preceding the fall semester in which an assistantship is sought. On rare occasions assistantships may be available for the spring semester. In such cases the application deadline is November 1. Information on Graduate Assistantships may be obtained from the department at (702) 895-3205. Please contact the Graduate College for additional information (702) 895-3320 or at http://graduatecollege.unlv.edu/admissions/

Information on grants, loans, and employment opportunities may be obtained from Student Financial Services at (702) 895-3424 or at http://www.unlv.edu/finaid/

*February 1st is the priority deadline for Financial Aid and students must be admitted before applying for financial aid.
select one or more areas from Leadership Studies and two areas from Disability Specialties.

Core Curriculum for the Ph.D. Degree (30 units)

Each student must complete the following with the grade of B or better:
- ESP 782RProfessional Seminar in Special Education (3 units) [prerequisite for all courses]
- ESP 789 Grant Writing for Human Services (3 units)
- ESP 787 Philosophical and Ethical Principles in Special Education (3 units)
- ESP 784 Seminar in Advanced Special Education Technology (3 units)
- ESP 783RLeadership Seminar in Special Education (3 units)
- ESP 785 Issues, Trends and Futures in Special Education (3 units)
- ESP 788 Single Subject Methods in Special Education (3 units)
- ESP 796 Dissertation Prospectus (3 units)
- ESP 783RLeadership Seminar in Special Education (3 units)
- ESP 791 Research Design in Special Education (3 units)
- EPY 721 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (3 units)

Ph.D. Research Emphasis (9 units)

Each student will complete 9 units selected from the following:
- EPY 716 Evaluation Research Methods (3 units)
- EPY 718 Qualitative Research Methodologies (3 units)
- KIN 751 Selected Application of Statistical Techniques I (3 units)
- KIN 752 Selected Application of Statistical Techniques II (3 units)
- EPY 722 Inferential Statistics Experimental Design (3 units)
- Other research courses approved by doctoral studies committee

Research Internship (3 units)
- ESP 794a Internship in Special Education Research (3 units)

Teaching Internship (3 units)
- ESP 794b Internship in Special Education Teaching (3 units)

Ph.D. Leadership Studies (9 units)

Each student will complete 9 units in one of the following areas: Administration, Consultation, Curriculum Development, Diagnosis-Assessment, Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Higher Education, Parenting, Research, Technology, Transition

Ph.D. Disability Specialties (18 units)

Each student must complete 9 units in two areas of exceptionalities with an emphasis on reviews of literature, research in field settings, or research externships:
- Autism
- Developmental Disabilities
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders
- Students with Gifts and Talents
- Learning Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities

Writing Proficiency (3 units)

Each student must demonstrate doctoral level writing proficiency throughout their doctoral studies, beginning with the first doctoral seminar, ESP 782R.

Ph.D. Dissertation (12 units)

Each student will conduct an original research study that results in a completed dissertation, in ESP 799.

Additional Information

Admission applications may be completed on the UNLV website: http://www.unlv.edu/

Please visit the department website for further information at: http://education.unlv.edu/ecs/

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Admissions and Programs
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