Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service. Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

**OVERVIEW**

The professional programs in special education are designed to provide individuals with skills in policy development and/or expanded knowledge in one of four specific disability areas: early childhood special education, behavior disorders, learning disabilities or intellectual disability.

**M.A.**
The M.A. program requires 32 credit hours, including at least six credit hours of research consisting of EDR 5400: Qualitative Research Methods and either EDR 5600: General Research Methods for Educators or EDR 5100: Introduction to Inferential Statistics for Educators.

At the end of the program, students, in consultation with their advisor, will prepare a theme paper on a topic related to their coursework and complete a one-hour oral examination based on the theme paper and completed coursework. Additional credit hours are determined by the individual program and may not include more than six credit hours from outside the School of Education, six credit hours of transfer credit, six credit hours of graduate readings or 10 credit hours of 4000-level courses.

**Ph.D.**
The doctorate program in special education emphasizes the tools of research and the interplay of theory and practice in special education. Students take a minimum of 42 credit hours beyond the master's degree, including 12 credit hours of dissertation research and three advanced research courses. Two successive semesters of residency are arranged with the advisor on a contract basis to cover professional development. At the end of the course credit hours, students complete written and oral exams and then take 12 credit hours of dissertation research. A public oral defense of a dissertation proposal and a final dissertation are required to complete the program.

**Career Paths:**
Possible career paths include curriculum coordinator, teacher educator, educational outreach coordinator, nonprofit specialist, special educator and adult educator.

**DEGREES OFFERED**

- Master of Arts (M.A.)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**COURSES AVAILABLE**

- Days
- Nights
- Weekends
- Online

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE or other applicable graduate entry exam
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement
- TOEFL or IELTS required for all international students.
- SLU writing exam is required for all international students upon admission.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

- Fall: July 1
- Spring: Nov. 1
- Summer: April 1

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**School of Education**

- EMAIL: slued@slu.edu
- PHONE: 314-977-4062
- WEB: slu.edu/x10648.xml

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

- M.A.: Graduate students wishing to enter these programs must have completed 18 credit hours of upper division undergraduate coursework in education or related areas approved by the School of Education.

- Ph.D.: The applicant must have a master's degree in education and complete six credit hours of graduate research coursework as a prerequisite for the doctoral programs. If the student does not have some or all of these credit hours, he or she may take these hours during the doctoral program as an addition to the program coursework.
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Special Education

FACULTY

Amrita Chaturvedi, Ph.D.: Special education, international education

Mary M. Chittooran, Ph.D., NCSP: Research with children, cultural competence, professional ethics, international students, women in higher education

Maureen Wikete Lee, Ph.D.: Early childhood, early childhood special education, inclusion, social and emotional development, family partnerships

Nikki Murdick, Ph.D.: Issues related to special education law, methods for successful inclusion in elementary and secondary schools, educational impact of rare genetic syndromes

Jen Newton, Ph.D.: Inclusive early childhood education, teacher education

Ronald W. Rebore, Ph.D.: Ethics of leadership, human resources administration, human relations, spirituality of leadership, international programs, special education administration

Joy Voss, Ph.D.: Early childhood, early childhood special education, technology integration, differentiated instruction, partnership schools

APPLICATION DEADLINE

M.A. Ph.D.

FALL July 1 July 1

SPRING Nov. 1 Nov. 1

SUMMER April 1 April 1

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Information concerning financial aid and scholarships can be found on the student financial services website: finaid.slu.edu.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
Higher purpose. Greater good.™