OVERVIEW / / /
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: behavior disorders, early childhood special education, intellectual disability, learning disabilities.

M.A.:
This program is designed to provide individuals with skills in policy development and/or expanded knowledge in special education. The degree requires the completion of 32 credit hours of coursework, an oral examination, and a theme paper. Students may choose one of four areas of emphasis for the Master of Arts in special education: behavior disorders, early childhood, intellectual disability or learning disabilities.

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.

Ph.D.:
The Doctor of Philosophy degree program emphasizes the tools of research and the interplay of theory and practice in education. The degree requires the completion of 30 credit hours of coursework, 12 hours of dissertation research, a comprehensive written examination, an oral examination/proposal defense, and a public presentation and defense of the dissertation.

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 required for all international students upon admission

APPLICATION DEADLINE / / /
Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DOMESTIC APPLICANTS / / /

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DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED / / /
• Master of Arts (M.A.)
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

COURSES AVAILABLE / / /

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED / / /
• Master of Arts (M.A.)
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Special Education

+ School of 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

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

In the spirit of the Jesuit tradition of education, the special education program is committed to providing students with:
• Individualized academic experiences that focus on their specific area of intellectual interest.
• In-depth preparation in both pedagogical and research skills to apply theory to practice.
• Opportunities to address social and moral issues related to special education.

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

Students may apply for graduate assistantships. Assistantship information and application forms are available on the School of Education webpage, in the financial aid section. Please contact student financial services for more information on financial aid.