

**Georgia State University**  
**Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education**

**Guide for Prospective Doctoral Students in Education of Students with  
Exceptionalities**

Thank you for your inquiry about our Ph.D. program in special education. All of our special education programs are accredited by NCATE. [Our Ph.D. program is designed to prepare individuals for careers in higher education as professors and researchers.](#) The program's areas of concentration include behavior disorders, learning disabilities, mental retardation, early childhood special education, orthopedically impaired, and sensory impairments. The name and email address of a faculty contact is provided below. Most of the Department's classes are offered in the evening beginning at either 4:30 or 7:15 pm and meet once per week, except in the summer when most classes are day classes.

The minimum requirements for consideration of acceptance into the Ph. D. program include:

1. GRE scores posted within the last five years with a minimum score of 1000 (minimum 500 verbal/500 quantitative).
2. A graduate degree in special education or a related field with a graduate GPA of at least 3.3 from a college or university that has regional accreditation (such as SACS).
3. A graduate level teaching certificate (or equivalent) in the concentration area (e.g., learning disabilities, mental retardation) in which you wish to pursue the doctorate.
4. Three years of classroom teaching.

The application will also specify that you will need to submit:

Three letters of recommendation from persons who can evaluate the applicant's ability to complete doctoral level course work, examinations, scholarly research, and potential for effective teaching at the college level. Two of these letters should be from faculty at colleges or universities, and one should be from a supervisor familiar with the applicant's work with pupils with disabilities.

A statement of personal and professional goals (500 words).

Resume/Vitae summarizing all prior educational and employment history and pertinent professional activities.

An on-site interview will be scheduled upon receipt of your completed application. A writing sample may be requested as part of the interview process.

You can find additional information about our programs, including an application, at the following sites:

<a href="http://www.gsu.edu/">http://www.gsu.edu/</a>	(University site)
<a href="http://education.gsu.edu/">http://education.gsu.edu/</a>	(College site)
<a href="http://education.gsu.edu/coe/content/admissions_ps.htm">http://education.gsu.edu/coe/content/admissions_ps.htm</a>	(Application site)
<a href="http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwfia/">http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwfia/</a>	(Financial Aid)
<a href="http://education.gsu.edu/epse/">http://education.gsu.edu/epse/</a>	(Department site)
<a href="http://www.gsu.edu/gshome-v1/international/">http://www.gsu.edu/gshome-v1/international/</a>	(International Info)

For further information about areas of faculty interest, please contact the following:

Autism	Dr. Juane Heflin	( <a href="mailto:speljh@langate.gsu.edu">speljh@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Behavior Disorders	Dr. Juane Heflin	( <a href="mailto:speljh@langate.gsu.edu">speljh@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Deafblindness	Dr. Kathy Heller	( <a href="mailto:spekwh@langate.gsu.edu">spekwh@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Early Childhood	Dr. Peggy Gallagher	( <a href="mailto:spepag@langate.gsu.edu">spepag@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Hearing Impairment	Dr. Susan Easterbrooks	( <a href="mailto:spesre@langate.gsu.edu">spesre@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Learning Disabilities	Dr. Peggy Shippen	( <a href="mailto:epemes@langate.gsu.edu">epemes@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Mental Retardation-Mild	Dr. David Houchins	( <a href="mailto:epedeh@langate.gsu.edu">epedeh@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Mental Retardation- Moderate to Profound	Dr. Paul Alberto	( <a href="mailto:spepaa@langate.gsu.edu">spepaa@langate.gsu.edu</a> )
Physical and Health Disabilities or Visual Impairment	Dr. Kathy Heller	( <a href="mailto:spekwh@langate.gsu.edu">spekwh@langate.gsu.edu</a> )

Ms. Sandy Vaughn 404-651-2310 ([svaughn@gsu.edu](mailto:svaughn@gsu.edu)) is the Departmental contact person for general information.

All applications and questions concerning them are handled through the Office of Academic Assistance in the COE (404-651-2539) or online at:  
<http://education.gsu.edu/aae/index.htm>

The Department does have GRA positions available each year. Generally, one cannot apply for such a position until after being admitted. You may qualify for a HOPE scholarship (from the Georgia Student Finance Commission) under their critical fields program. Information about HOPE scholarships and other information about financial aid can be obtained from the GSU Financial Aid Office, the COE Office of Academic Assistance (see web sites above), or directly from the Georgia Student Finance Commission: [http://www.gsfc.org/Main/dsp\\_main.cfm](http://www.gsfc.org/Main/dsp_main.cfm)

Thank you for your interest in our program.