

SPECIALIST IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Degree	Requirement for Admission
Education Specialist in Elementary Education	AA Educator License

Program Description

The Department of Education and Psychology offers the Educational Specialist Degree. In this program of study, candidates analyze current issues, educational trends, theories, policies, and practices affecting rural and urban schools and communities. Candidates in this program of study will be able to apply their research findings in practical situations through means of assignments and field experiences. Upon completion of the program the graduate will demonstrate an acute awareness of their field of study, as shown by their proven ability to apply principles and concepts to real life situations.

Admission Requirements:

To be considered for admission to the specialist degree program, the applicant must:

1. Have a master's degree in elementary education or related field;
2. Have a grade point average of at least 3.20 on a scale where an "A" equals 4.0;
3. Hold a valid teacher's AA license in elementary or secondary education (**teaching fields only**) or related field.

*Note: If a person is admitted with a secondary teacher's license, they will be endorsed in 4-8 only. If the Mississippi State Department of Education changes the licensure structure, the School of Education and Psychology must adhere to the changes. This program is not intended for individuals who have only an endorsement in Guidance Education who do not work in schools.

The Specialist Degree requires:

- Admission to the program;
- Submission of an approved program of study;
- Successfully completing a specialist written examination; and
- Writing an acceptable thesis and defending it orally.

Expected Outcomes

Upon completion of the specialist program, graduates should be able to demonstrate competency in the following areas:

1. Exceptional effectiveness in instructional techniques;
2. Exceptional knowledge of specialized subject matter;
3. Leadership in skills in curriculum development;
4. Knowledge of research techniques;
5. Knowledge of technology skills;
6. Classroom Management skills; and
7. Involvement in system-wide in service programs.

The Traditional Specialist Program is designed for students that would like to take courses at a slower rate. The courses in this program will be offered during the entire sixteen-week schedule. The maximum number of courses that a student can take during the fall or spring semester is nine. During the summer a student can potentially complete a maximum of twelve hours.

Course Requirements – Traditional Program

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)		Credits
ED 627+	Evaluation and Measurement	3 hrs.
ED 629+	Research Design and Statistics	3 hrs.
ED 695	Advanced Seminar in Elem. Education	3 hrs.
PH 614	Learning Theories	3 hrs.
Required Courses (27 Hours)		Credits
ED 600	Advanced Studies in Multicultural Education	3 hrs.
ED 602*	Introduction to Research Methods	3 hrs.
ED 619	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 621	Classroom Management	3 hrs.
ED 632	Advanced Studies in Teaching Methods	3 hrs.
ED 633	Advanced Seminar in Curriculum and Pedagogy	
ED 637	Advanced Media Technology	3 hrs.
ED 698**	Thesis I	3 hrs.
ED 699**	Thesis II	3 hrs.
PH 604	Psychological Statistics/Technology	3 hrs.
PH 690	Psychological Foundations of Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		39 hrs.

**Restricted: Students must take these 6 credit hours at the end of their program of study.

+Prerequisites: Courses must be taken before ED 698 and ED 699

*Course must be taken during the first semester of enrolling in the Education Specialist Program.

The Accelerated Specialist Program is designed for students that would like to take courses at a more advanced pace utilizing a prescribed chronological order. The courses in this program will be offered in eight week increments. The maximum number of courses that a student can take during the fall or spring semester is twelve (six hours the first eight weeks and six hours the second eight weeks). During the summer a student can potentially complete a maximum of twelve hours plus hours related to the completion of their special project or thesis.

Course Requirements – Accelerated Program

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)		Credits
ED 627+	Evaluation and Measurement	3 hrs.
ED 629+	Research Design and Statistics	3 hrs.
ED 695	Advanced Seminar in Elem. Education	3 hrs.
PH 614	Learning Theories	3 hrs.
Required Courses (27 Hours)		Credits
ED 602*	Introduction to Research Methods	3 hrs.
ED 619	Basic Skills in Reading	3 hrs.
ED 621	Classroom Management	3 hrs.
ED 632	Advanced Studies in Teaching Methods	3 hrs.
ED 637	Advanced Media Technology	3 hrs.
ED 698*	Thesis I	
ED 699*	Thesis II	6 hrs.
PH 604	Psychological Statistics/Technology	3 hrs.

PH 690	Psychological Foundations of Education	3 hrs.
TOTAL		39 hrs.

**Restricted: Students must take these 6 credit hours at the end of their program of study.

+Prerequisites: Courses must be taken before ED 698 and ED 699.

*Course must be taken during the first semester of enrolling in the Education Specialist Program.

Education Specialist Course Descriptions (ED)

ED 600 – ADVANCED STUDIES IN MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

Examines research as well as the dynamics of culture diversities. Discusses beliefs and attitudes commonly held in different cultures.

ED 602 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS

(3 Credits)

This course is an advance level educational research course where students in the Educational Specialist program will be expected to gain requisite knowledge to conduct and complete an action research project. Students will be expected to investigate issues related to K-12 education and utilize the appropriate research methods to provide information on ways to advance educational practices. The course will allow students to evaluate their profession and conduct action research. Action research will give the students hands-on experience with conducting research and the opportunity to investigate issues that they may encounter as practitioners. At the conclusion of the course, students will have practical experience to design and implement an action research project.

ED 619 – ADVANCED SKILLS IN READING

(3 Credits)

This course is designed as in-depth of major reading skills. The major thrust is geared to research activities, and strategies essential in the teaching of these basic skills.

ED 621 – MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES IN THE CLASSROOM

(3 Credits)

This course examines current research on behavior and existing techniques of managing the classroom.

ED 627 – EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT

(3 Credits)

Focuses on current research of specific principles and practices relative to evaluative procedures. Emphasizes in depth analyses of standardized tests and case studies.

ED 629 – RESEARCH DESIGN AND STATISTICS

(3 Credits)

An advanced research course designed to assist students in writing and evaluating their thesis. This course focuses on research design and advanced statistics.

Pre-requisite: ED 514.

ED 632 – ADVANCED STUDIES METHODS-MATERIALS FOR TEACHING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

(3 Credits)

Examines research on current procedures of teaching. Investigates strategies, materials, activities, and theory of teaching in the elementary schools.

ED 633 – ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

(3 Credits)

This Capstone Seminar is designed to foster an intensive cross-discipline analysis of research with regards to integrated curriculum development and assessment. Emphasis is placed on illustrations of critical professional

reflection and the integration of theoretical and experiential knowledge. The basic context/format of the course is learning through discourse. As such, candidates are expected to participate in the manufacture of knowledge by engaging in cooperative learning exercises, large and small group discussion, student leading discussions, peer teaching, and problem-based learning. Said synchronous and asynchronous activities will be achieved via the Online Management System.

ED 637 – ADVANCED MEDIA TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER APPLICATION

(3 Credits)

Studies selection, utilization, production and evaluation of audio visual materials and equipment. Stresses computer literacy.

ED 695 – ADVANCED SEMINAR IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

Surveys problems encountered by students and teachers in elementary education. Emphasizes current research and discussion of innovations and topics of interest in education.

ED 698 – THESIS I

(3 Credits)

This course is designed to introduce students to the research prospectus and thesis/Dissertation writing process with the focus on both the rhetorical framework and grammatical patterns germane to these tasks as well as the purpose of the research project. This course includes, but is not limited to: Producing literature reviews, annotated bibliographies with the concentration on conventions of style and format of specific academic discipline; synthesizing and relating verbal and nonverbal materials; analyzing research data; and drawing conclusions. The intent of the course is to provide training for the development of self-editing, proofreading skills, and individualized assistance to students with the drafting phase of documents.

ED 699 – THESIS II

(3 Credits)

Requires students enrolled in the Elementary Education Specialist Program to develop, design, and carry to completion a thesis or special research project. Pre-requisite: ED 629 and ED 627.

Psychology (Education Specialist Courses) (PH)

PH 604 – EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STATISTICS

(3 Credits)

This course focuses on analysis and interpretation of statistical data encountered on psychology and education using selected statistical techniques.

PH 614 – LEARNING THEORIES

(3 Credits)

This advanced course helps students acquire information and knowledge concerning the major traits, dynamics, and learning. Emphasis is placed on understanding theories of personality development and learning as they relate to behavior in various domains, including social learning and cognition as they influence attachment, dependency, aggression, sex typing, moral development, and general social competence.

PH 690 – PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

(3 Credits)

This course examines the application of psychological concepts, principles and theories in dealing with educational problems as relate to the basic tenants of psychological theories and major contributors to the fields of education and psychology.