FAU Community Partnerships

- The Department of Exceptional Student Education’s partnerships with school districts and the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities are recognized as College of Education Spheres of Excellence.
- A grant from the United States Department of Education supports doctoral student leaders in partnership with local school districts.
- Doctoral student and faculty research involve collaborative efforts in school districts whose students are among the most ethnically diverse in the nation.
- Our doctoral students supervise and mentor student teachers and beginning teachers in local schools.
- In one year, doctoral students published 16 manuscripts, submitted 9 others to peer-reviewed journals and delivered 52 presentations at state or national conferences.

Florida Atlantic University is part of the highly regarded State University System of Florida. The University is an urban, research university serving six of the nation’s most diverse counties. With our central campus located in Boca Raton and six additional campuses in Fort Lauderdale, Dania, Davie, Fort Pierce, Jupiter and Port St. Lucie – FAU serves more than 26,000 students. Florida ranks as the third largest state in growth and population increase. Broward County (Fort Lauderdale) is ranked as the fifth largest accredited school district nationwide and Palm Beach County School District is the 14th largest. FAU enjoys a collaborative and supportive relationship with these and other school districts.

For detailed information about the doctoral program or for an application, please call (561) 297-3280. You may also access information from our website listed below.
The doctoral program in Exceptional Student Education at Florida Atlantic University is designed to prepare future leaders in special education. Our graduates hold faculty positions in universities and leadership positions within school districts. Students in the doctoral program work closely with faculty to:

- conduct and publish research
- present research information at state and national conferences
- develop new courses, and
- fund research projects through grant writing.

Additionally, students have supervised opportunities to teach FAU courses in Exceptional Student Education.

Program requirements support the College’s NCATE conceptual framework of producing leaders who are informed, ethical, capable and reflective decision-makers.

The doctoral program accommodates both full- and part-time students.

**Course Requirements**

- Department Core (18 credits)
- Department Concentration (15 credits)
- Electives (6 credits)
- Research/Statistics (9 credits)
- Leadership Seminars (6 credits)
- Internship (6 credits)
- Residency Requirement
- Comprehensive Exams
- Dissertation

**Department Core Courses**

- Learning and Behavioral Characteristics
- Legal Foundations of Special Education
- Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- Grant Writing
- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity
- Doctoral Seminar

**Transfer of Credit**

Six credits from another institution can be transferred. In addition, six credits of coursework taken after the Master’s degree but prior to acceptance in the doctoral program may be applied.

**Research Opportunities**

Faculty interests and research areas include:

- Assessment
- Autism
- Early Childhood
- Functional Behavioral Assessment
- Language and Learning Disabilities
- Learning Strategies
- Mentoring
- School Reform and Inclusion
- Sexuality and Disability
- Social Skills
- Teacher Preparation Approaches
- Transition