

## GUIDELINES FOR SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREE

### Department of Curriculum and Teaching

The Specialist in Education degree is designed for professional educators who wish to enhance their competence in an area of specialization. Generally, because the Ed.S. Degree is considered a terminal degree, students who pursue specialist degrees do not then enter doctoral programs. However, because some states now require that teachers who wish sixth-year teacher certification complete a specialist degree, some students who earn specialist degrees may wish ultimately to earn doctoral degrees as well. Students who wish to explore the possibility of earning both a specialist and doctoral degree should work closely with their advisers to design plans of study that are compatible with the requirements for both degrees. Students seeking sixth-year certification in another state must assume the responsibility for developing a plan of study that satisfies that state's requirements.

A relevant field project must be completed under the supervision of the major professor. Advisory committees must approve students' written proposals before the field project can be undertaken. A variety of tasks may be undertaken as field projects, e.g., research appropriate to students' interests, needs, and formal preparation in research; development and field testing of curricula or teaching materials; adaptation and application of strategies learned in courses; and development, delivery, and assessment of staff development (in-service) activities related to students' areas of specialization. Advisers will monitor and supervise students' work in the field. At the end of their field projects, students will submit written reports of their projects to members of their advisory committees and will discuss their completed projects with members of their committees at meetings arranged expressly for that purpose. All members of the advisory committee must approve the field project report, and the adviser must submit a record of the committee's approval to the department head. Advisers will maintain at least one copy of the report submitted for each field project that they direct. Students must complete their programs, including their field project, within five years of the date that they complete the first post-master's degree courses that appear on their plans of study.

Information regarding Admission, Requirements for Degree, and Time Limit are available in the Graduate School section of the *AU Bulletin* (<http://www.auburn.edu/bulletin>) and at the Department of Curriculum and Teaching web site (<http://www.auburn.edu/auteach>).

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