MEMORANDUM

TO: Specialist Degree Students  
    College of Education

FROM: Marcy P. Driscoll, Professor and Dean  
      College of Education

RE: Degree program planning for Specialist students

Welcome to the College of Education!

These materials are designed to assist you in planning the work for your degree, including your academic program of study.

The first thing you are advised to do is become thoroughly familiar with the University Graduate Bulletin. The sections that you should be most concerned with are the portions dealing with Graduate Studies and the College of Education. In addition, consult with your advisor/major professor to obtain information about department policies and requirements and follow the directions for planning your degree program. If you have any questions regarding this information, contact the COE Co-Director for Graduate Studies, Lisa Beverly at lbeverly@fsu.edu or (850) 644-3760.

Deadline dates are online at http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students. You are advised to check the Office of Academic Services and Intern Support (OASIS) website frequently as these dates are subject to change.

It must be emphasized that preparing and following a correctly planned degree program is the responsibility of each graduate student. The major professor, committee members, and the others are eager to give all assistance possible, but the responsibility rests with the student.
1. **Major Professor:** At the earliest opportunity, the student should follow the convention of the major department or college to identify the major professor, who will serve as the student’s adviser and supervisor. Designation of the major professor requires the mutual consent of the student, department chair, and professor involved. The major professor must hold Graduate Faculty Status (GFS) or Co-Directive Status.

2. **Supervisory Committee:** A specialist’s degree supervisory committee must be designated for all thesis students and may be designated for non-thesis students at the option of the department.

Thesis-students and academic programs that require a supervisory committee: The supervisory committee should be formed within the first semester. When selecting the members of your supervisory committee, students need the consent of the major professor. The Specialist supervisory committee consists of a minimum of 3 members. Two members, including the major professor, must be from the major in which the student will receive a degree. The third member may be from the major department or another department within the college.

The supervisory committee for thesis students must consist of a minimum of three members of the faculty who have Graduate Faculty Status, one of whom is designated the major professor. All additional members of the committee must hold Graduate Faculty Status or (in the case of specialized or non-tenure track faculty) Co-Doctoral or Co-Master’s Directive status.

3. **Program of Study:** A signed program of study must be submitted to The Office of Academic Services and Intern Support (OASIS) by the end of the second semester of enrollment. It is necessary to list the semesters and years courses were taken in chronological order (past to present) to determine that the university, department and college requirements will be met. Program of study templates may be found at [http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students](http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students). It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that he/she has met all degree requirements.

4. **Program Type:** There are two (2) types of Specialist degrees in the College of Education, the course-track and the thesis-track. Course-track programs typically culminate with a Specialist Comprehensive Exam or Portfolio Defense in the final semester. Thesis-track programs include credited thesis hours and culminate with a thesis defense in the final semester.

5. **Minimum University Semester Hour Degree Requirements.**

   **Course Track**  
   - 32 graduate level hours total  
   - 21 graduate level hours must be letter grade

   **Thesis Track**  
   - 30 graduate level hours total  
   - 18 graduate level hours must be letter grade  
   - 6 hours of thesis

6. **Limitations:**

   a) Credit earned more than seven (7) years prior to graduation may not be used toward the degree.

   b) Credit earned as a non-degree seeking student does not carry graduate degree credit. However, if approved by a student’s supervisory committee, up to 12 semester hours of non-degree seeking student graduate level credit, graded “B” or better, may be used. It is the student’s responsibility to list such non-degree seeking student credit on the program of study.

   c) A maximum of six (6) semester hours of graduate transfer credit may be used towards a graduate degree. Departments will evaluate all transfer credit. It is the student’s
SPECIALIST DEGREE

responsibility to list such transfer credit on the program of study and to provide an official transcript from the institution.

d) Please NOTE: No student may be awarded more than 12 hours of combined non-degree seeking student and/or transfer credit. This means that a student wishing to post six (6) hours of graduate credit, which has not been posted under a previous degree, can be awarded no more than six (6) hours of non-degree seeking student credit.

e) Credit hours for courses graded below “C-” will not apply toward the degree, but are computed in the graduate GPA.

f) A maximum of six (6) hours of 4000-level credits may be included in the program of study. Undergraduate level coursework cannot be used to meet the College minimum hours requirement or the graduate GPA requirement.

g) Supervised research credit: maximum 3 semester hours.

h) Supervised teaching credit: maximum 3 semester hours.

7. Teacher Certification: If you are seeking teacher certification upon completion of a degree program which provides these requirements, you must submit a Graduate Application for Admission to Educator Preparation to the Graduate Director, 2301 Stone. See http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students for an application.

8. Specialist students must register for and complete either the Specialist Comprehensive Exam or Specialist Thesis Defense in order to graduate.

9. Graduation: Apply online for graduation at http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/checklist prior to the application deadline of the semester in which graduation is planned. Notify the COE Graduate Director if you do not plan to graduate during the semester for which you have applied. If you intend to participate in commencement exercises, arrange for cap and gown through the University Bookstore: http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/cap_gown/.

10. See the appropriate Final Term Checklist (course-track or thesis-track) for further information.
**See [http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students](http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students) for current semester deadlines.**

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2. If you intend to participate in commencement exercises, arrange for cap and gown through the University Bookstore: [http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/cap_gown/](http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/cap_gown/).

3. Ensure that you have submitted a Program of Study signed by all of your committee members to OASIS. If you have not, you will not be cleared to graduate.

4. Register for your Specialist Comprehensive Exam before the end of the first week of the semester. If you registered for the exam in a previous semester and received an incomplete (“I”) **you must drop the previous exam course and register for it again in the term in which you complete the requirement.**

5. If you have switched from a Doctoral track to a Specialist track, please see the Graduate Director to discuss requirements. You will need to submit a new Specialist program of study.

**Specialist Comprehensive Exam**

1. At the beginning of the semester, speak with your major professor regarding completion of your Specialist Comprehensive Exam.

2. Prepare a Specialist Comprehensive Exam Results Form to be signed by your committee. The form can be found at [http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students](http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students).

**After Specialist Comprehensive Exam**

1. Submit Specialist Comprehensive Exam Results Form to the Graduate Director, 2301 Stone.

**Remember to keep a copy of any document you submit to your department or OASIS.**
SPECIALIST DEGREE  
THESIS TRACK  
FINAL TERM CHECKLIST

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CHECKLIST IS FOR ALL THESIS TRACK EDS and MS/EDS COMBINED PROGRAM (CAREER COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY). ALL STUDENTS ON THESIS TRACK MUST GO THROUGH GRADUATE SCHOOL MANUSCRIPT CLEARANCE PROCESS.

**See [http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students](http://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students) for current semester deadlines.

**Graduation**

1. Apply online for graduation at [http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/checklist](http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/checklist) prior to the application deadline of the semester in which graduation is planned. Notify the COE Graduate Director if you do not plan to graduate during the semester for which you have applied.

2. If you intend to participate in graduation, arrange for your cap and gown through the University Bookstore: [http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/cap_gown/](http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/cap_gown/).

3. Ensure that you have submitted a Program of Study signed by all of your committee members to OASIS. If you have not, you will not be cleared to graduate.

4. Ensure that you have a minimum six (6) Specialist thesis hours during your semesters of graduate study.

5. Register for at least two (2) hours of Specialist thesis credit in your semester of graduation. This is a requirement even if you registered/completed your thesis defense in a prior semester.

**Specialist Thesis Defense**

1. At the beginning of the semester, talk with your major professor and schedule the date of your Specialist thesis defense. You must defend your thesis no later than the Format Approval Deadline set by The Graduate School.

2. Submit a rough draft of your thesis to each committee member at least 4 weeks prior to the defense.

3. Submit a final copy of your thesis to each committee member and the department chair 2 weeks prior to the defense.

4. Prepare a Manuscript Signature Form and Final Degree Clearance Form for your committee to sign at the defense. The forms can be found at [http://gradschool.fsu.edu/academics-research/thesis-treatise-dissertation/manuscript-clearance-formssurveys](http://gradschool.fsu.edu/academics-research/thesis-treatise-dissertation/manuscript-clearance-formssurveys).
After Specialist Thesis Defense

1. Submit the following for final approval to your **Department Chair**. One full-week should be allowed for this process.
   
a. The Manuscript Signature Form with signatures of all committee members.
b. The Final Degree Clearance Form, signed by your major professor. Your department chair must sign as well.

2. Submit the following to the **Graduate Director, 2301 Stone**:
   
a. Manuscript Signature Form with signatures of all committee members and department chair.
b. The Final Term Degree Clearance Form for the academic dean’s signature. The form must be signed by your major professor and department chair in order to receive the academic dean’s signature. **NOTE:** the Graduate Director will not be able to provide the academic dean’s signature on the Final Term Degree Clearance form if all appropriate paperwork is not on file in OASIS.

3. Deliver the necessary paperwork to the **Manuscript Clearance Advisor**, 314 Westcott, no later than 4:00pm on the published clearance deadline. Absolutely no exceptions will be given. **It is the student's responsibility to submit all required forms and documents to The Graduate School.** Per The Graduate School, you are required to complete the entire clearance process of your final manuscript within 60 days of your defense date, or you will have to re-defend. No exceptions will be made for this policy. It is encouraged that you make an appointment with the Manuscript Clearance Advisor early in the semester that you intend to defend so that any problems in the manuscript format can be corrected.


**Remember to keep a copy of any document you submit to your department, The Graduate School, or OASIS.**