

Requirements for Specialist in Education Degree

Residency and Credit Requirements

The specialist in education degree requires a minimum of 30 semester credits beyond the master's degree, including research, intern experiences, and graduate courses. The student meets the campus residency requirement by completing a minimum of 24 credits from faculty of New Mexico State University. The student must maintain a 3.0 average. No more than six semester credits of C level work are allowed in this program.

Program of Study

It is recommended that, during the first semester of enrollment, each graduate student beginning studies toward a degree prepare a complete tentative program of study in consultation with the student's adviser. This tentative program should be kept in the student's file within the department and is not to be considered as the "Application for Admission to Candidacy," which contains the permanent program.

Transfer of Credits

A maximum of six graduate credits earned at another approved institution may apply to this degree. Transfer credits must have been earned during the five-year period prior to completion of the specialist in education degree.

Major Field

All course work taken for the degree should apply directly, through a logical program of study, to the specialty which the candidate has selected. Two to six credits will be earned through research that is acceptable to the College of Education and the cooperating educational agency. Each department is responsible for defining the required sequence of courses.

Candidacy

Following the successful completion of 12 semester credits beyond the master's degree, the student is eligible for admission to candidacy. With the achievement of candidacy, a committee is appointed to work with the candidate on the remainder of the program. The committee consists of three members of the graduate faculty in the College of Education.

Internship

Each candidate will earn from three to six semester credits in an internship. This experience will consist of supervised performance of duties related to the candidate's

specialty. The structure of the internship will be determined by the student's department. A research project will be conducted in conjunction with the internship.

Oral Examination

The oral examination committee will consist of the student's committee plus a dean's representative appointed from the graduate faculty by the dean of the Graduate School. This committee will conduct an oral examination at the conclusion of the research project and no earlier than the candidate's last semester of enrollment.

The examination will consist of a defense of the project along with general questions on subject matter related to the candidate's field of study. Any candidate who fails the oral examination may, upon recommendation of the adviser and approval of the graduate dean, be granted a second examination after a lapse of at least one semester. Failure in the second examination disqualifies the candidate from obtaining the degree.

Time Limit

The specialist in education degree must be completed within seven years following admission to the program.

Students cannot include any course work on their program of study that is more than seven years old at the time of the final oral examination.