

Special Education

Doctor of Philosophy



Leadership Preparation, Flexible Options

Founded in 1954, UNC's School of Special Education is committed to excellence in basic and advanced teacher preparation in special education. We seek students who are idealists, realists, and scholars; who understand that leadership is neither seized nor bestowed; and who want to have direct impact on the lives of infants, children, and

youth with disabilities. Prepare for creative leadership in a rapidly evolving educational landscape. UNC offers a top-ranked program that brings together diverse graduate students and education professionals from all over the world. UNC ranks fifth nationally in teacher candidate graduates and is designated as the primary institution for undergraduate and graduate teacher education in Colorado.

Career Pathway

With a doctoral degree in special education from UNC, you'll be prepared to assume leadership positions in colleges, universities, agencies, businesses, government entities and public and private schools. You can also publish your research work in professional journals and hold leadership positions in professional organizations.

Degree Options

Our flexible doctoral program meets the needs of working professionals. Earn your Ph.D. in a face-to-face learning environment on campus, or through our affordable online program.

- A doctoral minor in Special Education is available to students in any UNC doctoral program with the approval of their doctoral program advisor.

Program Details

- Greeley Campus Delivery: Classes start Spring and Fall semesters
- Extended Campus: Online delivery, classes start every term, more at EXTENDED.UNCO.EDU
- Credits Required: 72-83
- Time to Completion: Three to five years, depending on enrollment status and professional goals

Related Programs

- Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing, M.A.
- Special Education: Early Childhood, M.A.
- Special Education: Generalist, M.A.
- Special Education: Gifted and Talented, M.A.
- Special Education: Visual Impairment, M.A.
- Special Education: Intervention Specialist, Applied Behavior Analysis, M.A.

Cost and Value

Tuition rates are based on the 2021-22 Academic Year:

Colorado Resident Tuition: \$685 per credit hour plus fees.

Nonresident Tuition: \$1,296 per credit hour plus fees. You may qualify for CO resident tuition — see WRGP information at right.

Extended Campus: \$659 per credit hour.

UNC is regularly called out as a top value for both resident and nonresident students, and the university offers financial aid packages for qualified students. For more information, visit [UNCO.EDU/COSTS](https://unco.edu/costs).

Faculty Spotlight

Silvia Correa-Torres, Ed.D.

Dr. Silvia Correa-Torres was first introduced to Special Education when she was recruited to take some courses in the area of visual impairment and volunteer at a school for the blind. She fell in love with the children and after many years of teaching individuals who are blind and visually impaired, became a professor herself, providing teachers with the training they need to support students. Through teaching and research, she strives to improve educational services for students who are visually impaired or who are deafblind and shares her research at conferences worldwide.



What Students Say

“The faculty in the program are incredibly supportive. They understand my goals and are doing all they can to help me achieve them. They want me to be successful. Being an online student, I thought it would be difficult to feel connected to other doctoral students and faculty in the program. I am pleased that I was wrong. There are multiple ways to become and stay connected.”

— Lanya McKittrick, 2018 Special Education Ph.D. student

Financing your Education

UNC offers a variety of financial support options, including:

- Colorado resident tuition for students from 15 western states is offered through the Western Regional Graduate Program. To see if you qualify visit [UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN-REGIONAL-GRADUATE-PROGRAM.ASPX](https://unco.edu/GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN-REGIONAL-GRADUATE-PROGRAM.ASPX)
- Several competitive graduate assistantships

For more information contact Financial Aid at [UNCO.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID/](https://unco.edu/financial-aid/).

Program Contact

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About UNC Graduate School

The University of Northern Colorado, founded in 1889, is Colorado's right-sized doctoral research university, serving a diverse student body around the world. Given its size, program mix, and mission, UNC offers students the access and opportunities of a small college along with the nationally recognized programs, research funding and facilities that come with being a leading U.S. university. Students seeking preparation for a world (and workplace) full of opportunities and options, complexities and cultures, diversity and demands, will find faculty mentors and excited fellow students to engage with here at UNC.

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Graduate School

[UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL](https://unco.edu/graduate-school)