

Project ASCEND: Applying Scholarship to Create and Evaluate Next Developments in Special Education



Information Session

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Grant Funding for a Ph.D. in Education! **Become a Special Education Leader in Higher Education**

Applying **S**cholarship to **C**reate and **E**valuate **N**ext **D**evelopments in Special Education

Project *ASCEND*

REQUIREMENTS?

- Be a full-time student
- Participate in an Internship in high-need schools
- Agree to work in area of preparation for 2 years post graduation for every year of funding

WHAT DOES THIS OPPORTUNITY PROVIDE?

- Up to \$21,000 in fellowship funding
- Tuition coverage
- Research supplies and travel support
- Work with faculty on research projects
- Opportunities for additional funding as GRA

Interested?

Attend Information session:

**November 5, 2012 at
7:30 pm Finley
Building, Room 119**

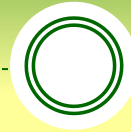
And/or

Contact:

Dr. Margo Mastropieri at
mmastrop@gmu.edu or
Dr. Tom Scruggs at
tscruggs@gmu.edu

Review Ph.D. program at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/phd> Applications Due: February 1, 2013

Information Session Agenda



- **Introductions**
- **Purpose of PhD in High Incidence Disabilities**
- **Purpose of Project ASCEND**
 - Success of Previous Sp Ed Graduates
- **Components of Project ASCEND**
 - Required Courses
- **Benefits of Project ASCEND**
- **Requirements of Project ASCEND**
- **Application Process**
- **Questions and Answers**



- Leadership Grant Purpose
- Information Session Flyer
- Project Description
- Sample Plan of Studies
- Application Process
- Other Funding Sources
- Financial and Service Obligation

PROJECT ASCEND: Applying Scholarship to Create and Evaluate Next Developments in Special Education

Preparation of Doctoral Leadership Personnel for Positions in Higher Education

The Special Education Program at George Mason University was recently ranked 17th in the nation by US News and World Report and is pleased to offer fellowship funding for qualified applicants to a new, more intensive and comprehensive cohort doctoral program in high incidence disabilities to prepare individuals for special education positions in higher education. Project ASCEND (Applying Scholarship to Create and Evaluate Next Developments in Special Education) is funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Project ASCEND will include critically important offerings to substantially update and enhance its current doctoral program. New, research-focused courses in personnel preparation, assessment, and contemporary initiatives including culturally responsive leadership and evidence-based content that integrates the latest technological advances for problem solving contemporary special education issues will be offered. Advanced internships in high-needs schools, and ongoing cohort special education seminars and fellowship/cohort support sessions will facilitate professional development. Students will be mentored by faculty who are actively engaged in state-of-the-art teacher education, research, and culturally responsive leadership activities. The program emphasizes the balance among teaching, research, and leadership competencies to provide intensive, high quality training in all areas required to prepare individuals for faculty positions in higher education.

Project Benefits

- Up to \$21,000 in fellowship funding
- Tuition coverage
- Research supplies
- Travel support to state/national professional conferences
- Opportunities to work with faculty on research and teaching projects
- Opportunities for additional research assistantship funding

Contact:

Project Directors: Margo Mastropieri (mmastrop@gmu.edu) and Thomas Scroggs (tscroggs@gmu.edu)

Faculty Associates: Shari Berkaley (sberkale@gmu.edu), Anna Emenova (aemenova@gmu.edu), and Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu)

Introductions



- **Project Faculty:**
 - **Margo Mastropieri, PhD, Co-PI**
 - **Tom Scruggs, PhD, Co-PI**
 - **Sheri Berkeley, PhD**
 - **Anya Evmenova, PhD**
 - **Kelley Regan, PhD**

Experience of Project Faculty



- **Extensive backgrounds in teaching, research, and service in Special Education**
- **Some of the top scholars and educators in the field.**
- **Editors of *Exceptional Children*, the flagship journal of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**
- **National Award Recipients (CEC Research; AERA Sp Ed SIG Research; SCHEV Virginia Outstanding Faculty; Student Dissertation Awards**
- **Recipients of numerous Research and Training Grants (over Millions of dollars)**

What is the Ph.D. in Education?

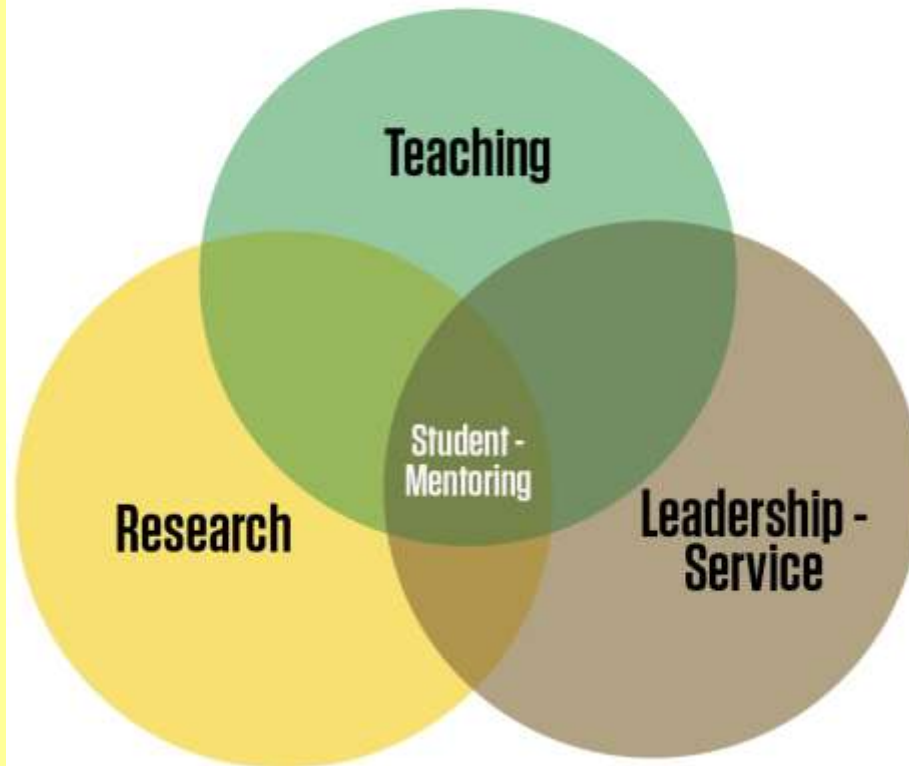


- Highest Academic Degree
- Focus on research and research methods
- Follows Master's Degree

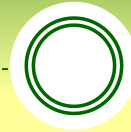


What is the Purpose of the PhD in ASCEND?

Applying **S**cholarship to **C**reate and **E**valuate **N**ext **D**evelopments
in special education

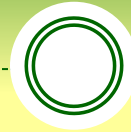


Project ASCEND Will Prepare Leaders for



- Higher Education Faculty Positions
- Emphasis in High Incidence Disabilities
- Excellence in Research
 - Collaborate with faculty on research projects
 - ✦ Presentations and Publications
- Excellence in Teaching
 - Collaborate with faculty on teaching
 - ✦ Co-teaching classes
- Excellence in Leadership/Service

Where Are Previous GMU Sp Ed PhD Graduates?



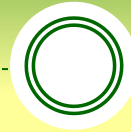
- **Higher Education Positions**

- Illinois State University, Johns Hopkins University, Millersville University, James Madison University, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Utica College, Liberty University, Texas Woman's University, United Arab Emirates, George Mason University

- **Leadership Positions**

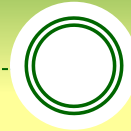
- School District Leadership positions, Principals, Assistant Principals, District Supervisors, Teacher Mentors, Professional Organizations, Federal Agencies

What are the Data on Previous Students?



- **Data on Students Enrolled from 2007-2012 who worked with project faculty:**
 - **23 Graduates**
 - ✦ 19 hold prominent positions in special education
 - ✦ 2 work in private practice
 - ✦ 1 retired
 - ✦ 1 seeking full-time employment
 - **14 Working on dissertation research now**
 - **3 in final stages of dissertation research**
 - ✦ One holding defense this Wednesday!

What Recognition Have Previous Students Received who have worked with Project Faculty?



- 2 AERA-Special Ed SIG Outstanding Student Dissertation Research
- 3 Outstanding Academic-Dissertation Awards at GMU;
- 3 Outstanding Dissertation Awards at Purdue;
- 3 CEC-DDD Herbert Prehm Research Awards;
- 2 Student Initiated Grants from USDOE OSEP;
- 1 CEC-DLD Outstanding Dissertation

What are the requirements?



- 44-53 credit hours of coursework
- 12 credit hours of dissertation
- 56-65 total credit hours



What are the components of the Ph.D. Program?



- 3 credits Foundations Course
- 12 credits Research Methods
- 24 credits Specialization (major)
- 3-12 credits Secondary Concentration
- 12 credits Dissertation

56-65 total beyond a master's degree

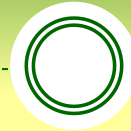


Foundation Classes (6)



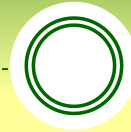
- EDUC 800: Ways of Knowing (3) (Epistemology; 1st semester)
- EDRS 810: Problems and Methods in Education Research (3) (before end of 2nd semester)

Required Research Classes



- EDRS 811: Quantitative Methods (3)
- EDRS 812: Qualitative Methods (3)
- EDRS 82*: Advanced methods: qualitative, quantitative, single subject, mixed methods, evaluation, etc. (- select additional course relevant to dissertation methods)
- EDUC 998: Dissertation Proposal (3)
- EDUC 999: Dissertation Research (9)

Specialization Classes (24) sample:



- 6, doctoral-level courses in specialization area (18)
- 1 independent study (3)
- EDUC 994: Internship (3)

100 hours in relevant setting over at least 6 weeks:
high needs schools, university, professional organization, research center

PROJECT ASCEND New Courses



EDSE 841: Intervention Research in Special Education (3 credits).

EDSE 842: Application of Research Methodology in Special Education (3 credits)

EDSE 84xx1: Personnel Preparation Programs in Special Education (3 credits)

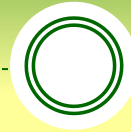
EDSE 84xx2: Assessment, Evaluation, and Instrumentation in Special Education (3 credits)

EDSE 8xx3: Problem Solving for Contemporary Initiatives in Special Education (3 credits)

EDUC 994: Advanced Internship in Education: Leadership Positions in High-Need Schools (3 credits)

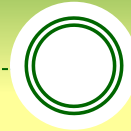
EDSE 794 I: Special Topics: Special Education Seminar 1-3 (1 credit, ongoing):

Cohort Seminars: Mentoring Support



- ***EDSE 794-1 over 2 semesters: Cohort Seminar:***
Introduction to Special Education Research/Reporting
Research Synthesis in Special Education (Year 1)
- ***EDSE 794-2 over 2 semesters: Cohort Seminar:***
Enhancing Personnel Preparation in Special
Education/Secondary Data Analyses (Year 2)
- ***EDSE 794-3 over 2 semesters: Cohort Seminar:***
Reporting on Problem Solving for Contemporary
Initiatives in Special Education/Leadership
Experiences (Year 3)

Project ASCEND Benefits: Mentoring Model



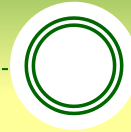
- **Work closely with faculty**
 - **Engage in ongoing research projects with faculty**
 - ✦ Assist with data collection, data scoring and analyses
 - ✦ Work as members of research teams assuming more leadership over time
 - ✦ Collaborate on scholarly presentations at professional meetings (e.g. CEC, AERA)
 - ✦ Collaborate on writing for publications
 - **Collaborate in co-teaching with faculty**
 - **Participate in cohort with peers**
 - ✦ Assume mentee roles initially
 - ✦ Gradually move into mentorship role with more novice students

Project ASCEND: Financial Benefits



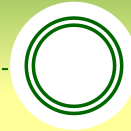
- **Fellowships \$21,000 per year**
- **Tuition coverage**
- **Travel support to present at national conferences**
- **Research supplies support**

Project ASCEND: Program Requirements



- **Be a full-time student**
 - Be available to work with faculty on research projects in the schools during the days
- **Participate in an Internship in high-need schools**
 - Specialized internships will be designed with local school districts in which we will work in high needs' schools
 - ✦ Designing inservices, assisting with implementing RTI, mentoring, modeling
- **Enroll in Project ASCEND special education courses, seminars, and cohort meetings**
- **Agree to work in area of preparation post graduation**
 - 2 years for every year of funding

Federal Government Service Obligation



- **Recipients of Project ASCEND Funding, (including Fellowships, Tuition, Travel, etc)**
 - Must sign an agreement to work in a field related to the preparation (e.g., related education field) for two years for every year of funding received
 - ✦ Ideally higher education in high incidence disabilities
 - If this does not happen, you will have to reimburse the federal government
- **Project staff complete forms indicating follow-up positions and addresses of all funded scholars**

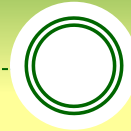
Application Process



Two-Step Application Process:

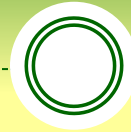
- **First, apply and be accepted into the CEHD PhD Program**
- **Second, apply to Project ASCEND for fellowship funding and cohort position**

CEHD PhD Program Applications



- Application deadlines are September 1 and February 1 of each calendar year.
- Applicants must submit:
 - GRE Scores (Verbal, Quantitative, Writing)
 - Transcripts of previous academic work
 - Three references
 - Goal statement
 - Application form
- Requirements:
 - Masters degree (or equivalent) in special education or related field
 - Three years' relevant teaching experience (or equivalent)

Attend a CEHD Phd Information Session

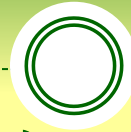


Ph.D. in Education Information (Fairfax campus):
Session 11/15/2012 7:30pm - 9:00pm Johnson Center
327 - Meeting Room C

For additional information please check our website at:
<http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/phd>

For additional information about the Ph.D program
watch video. All details for applying to the CEHD PhD
program available: at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/phd>

APPLY for PROJECT ASCEND Funding



- Complete application (on line)
- Qualifications:
 - Admittance to the CEHD PhD Program
 - Minimum of three years successful special education teaching experience (or comparable experience)
 - Commitment to be a full-time student
 - Commitment to study high incidence disabilities as major
 - Commitment to complete an Internship in high-need schools
 - Highly motivated to learn and participate in teaching and research activities with faculty
 - Agreement to work in area of preparation 2 years post graduation for every year of funding
- We are seeking applications for all highly qualified individuals, including those with disabilities and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Project ASCEND Application

Please complete the items on the Project ASCEND Application. You can print a hard copy for your records.

Feel free to contact Dr. Margo Mastropieri mmastrop@gmu.edu with any questions.

We will begin reviewing applications on November 10, 2012. Please submit prior to that date.

PLEASE CLICK the SUBMIT tab at the end.

Please write your complete name.

In the space below please provide your contact information including: email, phone, and mailing address.

Please indicate your racial/ethnic background (check all that apply).

- White
 Black
 Latino
 Asian American
 Native American
 Arab American

other:

Please indicate your gender

- male
 female

Are you a US citizen?

- Yes
 No

Please indicate previous degrees awarded (check all that apply):

- Bachelor's Degree
 Master's Degree
 Educational Specialist

other:

Please indicate previous and current teaching experience (check all that apply):

- special education teaching pre K-12
 general education inclusive teaching
 private practice

other:

Please rate your level of agreement on the next two statements.

I have a desire to learn, emphasize, and study individuals with high incidence disabilities.

- Strongly disagree
 disagree
 Agree

Click SUMBIT when finished!

<http://kihd.gmu.edu/training/ascend/>

<http://websurvey.gmu.edu/preview.jsp?surveyId=1351161463585&url=http://websurvey.gmu.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1351161463585>

Common Questions



- Can I transfer classes and credits in the program?
- How Long Does it Take?
- Are there other types of assistantships available?
- Can I go part-time to the Sp Ed doctoral Program?
- Will the service obligation really require me to pay back all funds?
- What types of employment will cover the service obligation?

Questions and Answers



- Can I transfer classes and credits in the program?
 - Yes, up to 12 hours if taken no more than 6 years prior to admissions and
 - ✦ Not part of previous degree
 - ✦ 600 level and higher typically
 - ✦ Committee approval
- How Long Does it Take?
 - Full-time can be done in 3 to 4 years
 - ✦ If enrolled during summers
 - Part-time will take longer and
 - ✦ Depends on number of courses taken each semester

Questions and Answers

- Are there other types of assistantships available?
 - Yes, you can apply for these as well
 - ✦ Research grant positions
 - ✦ Research assistantships paid for by CEHD
- Can I go part-time to the Sp Ed doctoral Program?
 - Yes, many students enroll part-time and work full-time
 - But, Project ASCEND is recruiting full-time students

Questions and Answers



- Will the federal service obligation really require me to pay back all funds?
 - Yes, the federal government will require you to pay back any funds received through this grant if you have not met the service obligations.
- What types of employment will cover the service obligation?
 - Positions in higher incidence disabilities or related areas
 - Higher education preferably
 - Other related positions will also qualify