

Program Highlights

- Focus on access, success & equity,
- Interdisciplinary Ph.D. faculty mentorship,
- Ph.D. student cohort model,
- Full-time, in-person program and supports,
- Research and teaching fellowship opportunities,
- Funding support for conference travel, and
- Competitive tuition

Special Education Courses

CASE 90850	Contemporary Issues in Special Education
CASE 90853	Leadership, Policy, and Ethics in Special Education
CASE 90854:	Personnel Preparation and Effective Teaching (in Disability Studies)
CASE 90855	Evidence-Based Practices in Special Education
CASE 90857	Special Topics (in Disability Studies)

Admissions

Applications are due by February 15 for fall admission. Application requirements include:

- Transcripts from all colleges attended
- Three letters of recommendation
- Essay explaining interest in a program on access, success & equity
- Curriculum vitae
- Writing sample

For more information, please contact

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Visit: go.rowan.edu/PhDinEducation

Student Spotlights

Janelle Alexander is an experienced special education program administrator currently working as an assistant director of admissions at Rowan University. Her research interests are focused on the underrepresentation of African American males in higher education identified with exceptionalities; race, gender and ability that impact post-secondary admittance; and African American and Latino male student success in varied high school and higher education settings.

Estyr Bomgardner is an experienced special education teacher and behavior therapist and interventionist. Her research interests include the impact of socio-emotional learning on academic achievement, increasing self-advocacy in special education populations and the efficacy of current special education methodologies on long-term outcomes.

Kerry Cormier previously served as a high school classroom special education English teacher and then as an instructor at Rowan. Currently she serves as a professor in residence at an area elementary school. Her research interests include interdisciplinary education studies, and the portrayal of disability in art and literature.

Lesa Givens is an educator with comprehensive experience including special education, music education and teacher training. Her research interests currently focus on bringing creative educational opportunities to educators and students in developing nations.

Benita Kluttz-Drye previously served as a special education program administrator and special education teacher. She currently serves as a professor in residence in an area elementary school. Her research interests include the intersection of urban education and special education, specifically looking for ways to improve access, success and equity for young men and boys of color.

Mbuh Payne has experience in the field of human services, most recently serving as program director of an adult day training center for individuals with developmental disabilities. His research interests include special education legislation, increasing independence in habilitation skills for adults with developmental disabilities and applied behavior analysis.

Ph.D. in Education

Special Education Concentration



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Why focus on access, success & equity?

The Ph.D. in Education with a Special Education Specialization develops scholars who, through research, teaching and service, make an impact in the field of special education. Through research and praxis, Ph.D. students are prepared for careers as higher education faculty, as researchers, as policy specialists and as special education consultants and advocates.

Why specialize in special education?

Students in the Special Education Specialization examine critical issues in the field of special education and disability studies in education (DSE). The program encourages progressive thinking about traditional segregated special education practices, and changing educational structures to be fully inclusive for all students and families. At Rowan University, students and faculty engage in progressive research that promotes the development of inclusive schools and educational policy.

Why Rowan University?

Under the guidance of doctoral program faculty, students will have opportunities to submit peer-reviewed publications; present at national conferences; and collaborate on writing grants that focus on providing access, success and equity for students with disability labels and their families.

Want to make an impact redressing inequities in special education?

Engage with our faculty bringing research to practice...



Dr. Amy Accardo's research focus is on promoting equitable education opportunities and independence for individuals on the autism spectrum grounded in neurodiversity and critical studies of ableism. Current projects include eliminating the research to practice gap teaching students with autism, and increasing access to postsecondary education and employment for the growing number of autistic young adults. go.rowan.edu/accardoamy



Dr. Lisa Vernon-Dotson's research interests include teacher leadership and the impact on teacher practices and student outcomes, mentorship and induction in teacher education and faculty retention in special education teacher education. go.rowan.edu/vernondotsonlisa



Dr. Brent Elder's research interests include utilizing a critical disability studies lens to examine the intersections of disability, poverty and education in the United States and abroad. His current projects include: using professional development school (PDS) partnerships to develop more inclusive schools in New Jersey, developing sustainable inclusive education systems in western Kenya and collaborating with the deaf community in Northern Ireland to create more access to the justice system. go.rowan.edu/elderbrent



Dr. Casey Woodfield's work focuses on communication and inclusion as inextricably connected imperatives, particularly in the lives of autistic individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication. Using a disability studies framework, her research explores the nuances of dynamic communication support partnerships, inclusive educational practice, socially constructed notions of competence and voice and transformative qualitative methods. go.rowan.edu/woodfieldcasey



Dr. Justin Freedman's research focuses on disability accommodations in post-secondary education, ADHD, learning disabilities and teacher education for inclusive education. He has used a clinical simulation model to examine how students identified as having a disability advocate for their needs and rights in the context of post-secondary education. go.rowan.edu/freedmanjustin



Dr. Joy Xin's research focuses on using technology in teaching students with disabilities, behavior management and special education teacher education. Her current research projects include preparing special education teachers to collaborate with families, integrating special education content into education leadership programs and supporting parents to manage children's behaviors. go.rowan.edu/xinjoy