

Two Options (Comprehensive Exam or Project)

Comprehensive Exam Option

To exit the program by completing a comprehensive exam option, you must enroll in SPED 595: Comprehensive Exam. This course should be taken in the last semester you plan to graduate. The Comprehensive Exam assesses multiple skills and abilities including the following: (1) mastery of content knowledge, (2) ability to integrate knowledge, (3) demonstration of critical thinking/analysis skills, (4) high-level writing competency, and (5) accuracy of documentation. The Comprehensive Exam is an essay exam covering content from your master's contract courses. The exam consists of 3 questions and is 4 hours long, administered in 4-hour blocks. During the exam, you will be given two questions in your area of specialization (mild/moderate, moderate/severe, or early childhood). The additional one question will consist of one general education question or one research question. The exam will be taken on a computer here on campus. Should you choose this exit option, you will be working very closely with the chair.

The exam is only three questions, and it is only four hours long and is completed in one morning
.., not two time periods...

Project Option

To exit the program by completing a professional project, you must enroll in SPED 597: Project. This course should be taken in the last semester you plan to graduate. It will be the capstone course for your program and help you complete your project. **However, you should have completed most of the coursework for your project before enrolling in SPED 597.**

The project committee will consist of two Department of Special Education members. Additional members from other departments may also be allowed. The student will invite a faculty member to chair the committee. The invited chair will work then assist the student in the selection of additional committee members if necessary. All students need to adhere to the department's project deadlines established and readily available on the Department of Special Education website and Graduate Program bulletin board. **You will be working very closely with your committee chair if you choose this exit option.**