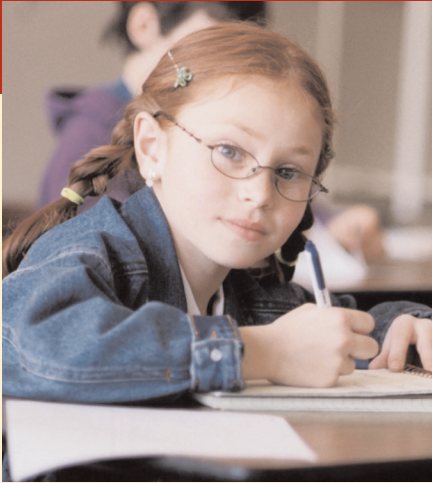




# Director of SPECIAL EDUCATION



## Unique Leadership for Today's Schools

Leaders in special education are dedicated to the improvement of educational opportunities and lifestyle choices for exceptional children in the community. Directors are expected to provide both cognitive and emotional development for children to succeed in school and be aware of outside resources available.

Special education directors need to understand how to design, field test and evaluate instructional strategies and methodologies. Directors need to know how to provide direct service and consultation in partnership with families and reach out to family agencies, community service organizations and professional organizations.

St. Thomas prepares professional, effective administrators in special education.

### The St. Thomas Difference

This program extends beyond basic teaching licensure into more advanced work on administering programs for students in all categories of IDEA.

Features of this program include:

- Highly practical coursework is based on your individual needs.
- Courses are taught by recognized leaders in their field.
- Courses are conveniently scheduled late afternoons or evenings, summer days and summer evenings.

By earning this degree you will be able to:

- Address current literature and issues in special education.
- Develop and administer programs to meet the needs of special education learners in your district.
- Implement appropriate identification and due-process standards.
- Provide direct service and consultation.
- Work as partners with families.
- Collaborate with professionals across disciplines.
- Understand the foundations of leadership.
- Build your leadership skills.

[www.stthomas.edu/education](http://www.stthomas.edu/education)



## How to Apply

### Applicants Must Submit:

1. \$50 application fee.
2. Application form.
3. Official transcripts.
4. Admissions test results (if applicable).
5. Statement of purpose.
6. Two letters of recommendation.

### Mail Application Materials to:

Admissions Coordinator  
School of Education  
University of St. Thomas  
MOH 217  
1000 LaSalle Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2009

### Contact Information

Special Education  
Department Assistant  
Pat Helland  
Phone: (651) 962-4980  
(800) 328-6819, Ext. 2-4980  
plhelland@stthomas.edu

### Financial Aid

Contact Financial Services for information about graduate financial aid.  
Phone: (651) 962-6550  
(800) 328-6819, Ext. 2-6550  
financialaid@stthomas.edu  
[www.stthomas.edu/financialservices](http://www.stthomas.edu/financialservices)

## Curriculum

These courses are offered collaboratively through the departments of Special Education and Leadership, Policy and Administration. This competency-based licensure program begins with a skills/experience assessment and leads to the evaluation of competencies through coursework, portfolio completion and other documentation.

Listed below is an example of an individualized plan for the Director of Special Education degree with no prior administrative experience.

- Communication, Conflict and Decision Making (EDLD 845 – 3 Credits)
- Research, Design, Analysis and Critique (EDLD 621 – 3 Credits)
- Politics of Education (EDLD 809 – 3 Credits)
- Practicum: Director of Special Education (SPED 773 – 3 Credits)
- Foundations of Leadership (EDLD 807 – 3 Credits)
- Personal and Professional Planning (EDLD 770 – 2 Credits)
- Planning and Administration: Special Education (SPED 731 – 2 Credits)
- Instructional Strategies: Mild-Moderate Disabilities (SPED 788 – 3 Credits)
- Supervision and Development (EDLD 805 – 3 Credits)
- School Law (EDLD 820 – 3 Credits)

Complete course descriptions are available at:  
[www.stthomas.edu/education](http://www.stthomas.edu/education)