



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

Department of Special Education

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Dear Prospective Redbirds,

My name is Yun-Ching Chung and I'm the doctoral program coordinator in the Department of Special Education at Illinois State University. The purpose of the Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Special Education program is to prepare expert educators, educational leaders, and/or university faculty to enhance special education services and special educator preparation. We are recruiting students who have a Master's Degree in special education or in a related field, such as school psychology, school Social work, or speech pathology, in addition to individuals who have years of working experience with children or adults with disabilities.

Most of our doctoral students have positions in the field of special education and are enrolled part-time. Part-time students typically register for 6 credit hours of coursework each semester. All of our courses are online and offered on weekday evenings. Most students complete the program in 4-5 years. Our doctoral program requires students to complete formal coursework and professional experiences related to teacher education, research in an area of their interest, and program development, management, and evaluation. To better support students pursue their career aspirations, we offer three dissertation options: traditional dissertation, journal-format dissertation, and dissertation in practice. With our graduate faculty members having expertise across areas, we support our doctoral students as they conduct relevant dissertation studies that make meaningful contributions to the field of special education.

We're proud to say that our doctoral program graduates are well prepared to assume positions as faculty members at institutions of higher education, as well as assume leadership positions in prek-12 schools in the field of special education. If you are interested in pursuing an Ed.D. in special education, now is the time to start this challenging but rewarding journey. Take a look at our website for additional information, and feel free to contact me with any questions. If you feel this program might be the right match for you, we look forward to hearing from you and receiving your application.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yun-Ching Chung".

Yun-Ching Chung, Ph.D.

Professor

Doctoral Program Coordinator

Department of Special Education, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

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