



Board of Governors, State University System of Florida  
**ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM TERMINATION FORM**  
In Accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012

**INSTITUTION:** Florida International University

**PROGRAM NAME:** Doctor of Education in Exceptional Student Education

**DEGREE LEVEL(S):** Ed.D **CIP CODE:** 13.1001  
(B., M., Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.) (Classification of Instructional Programs)

**ANTICIPATED TERMINATION TERM:** Spring 2022  
(First term when no new students will be accepted into the program)

**ANTICIPATED PHASE-OUT TERM:** Spring 2022  
(First term when no student data will be reported for this program)

*Please use this form for academic program termination. The form should be approved by the University Board of Trustees (UBOT) prior to submission to the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida for consideration. Please fill out this form completely for each program to be terminated in order for your request to be processed as quickly as possible. Attach additional pages as necessary to provide a complete response. In the case of baccalaureate or master's degree programs, the UBOT may approve termination in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.012, and submit this form to the Board of Governors, Office of Academic and Student Affairs. For doctoral level programs, please submit this form with all appropriate signatures for Board of Governor's consideration. The issues outlined below should be examined by the UBOT when approving program terminations.*

**1. Provide a narrative rationale for the request to terminate the program.**

In 2019, the faculty of the doctorate in Exceptional Student Education created a new area of specialization (Special Education) as part of the PhD in Teaching and Learning. This specialization provided students the ability to earn a Doctor of Philosophy as well as enabled the academic unit to consolidate degree offerings. Thus, the request to terminate the EdD is a matter of streamlined and improved academic offerings at the university.

**2. Indicate on which campus(es) the program is being offered and the extent to which the proposed termination has had or will have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.**

The proposed termination will not have an impact on enrollment, enrollment planning and/or the reallocation of resources. The EdD in Exceptional Student Education, and the PhD in Teaching and Learning are offered at the main Campus. As formerly enrolled students and new admissions are being served by the PhD, there is no impact on enrollment, enrollment planning, and/or the reallocation of resources.

**3. Explain how the university intends to accommodate any students or faculty who are currently active in the program scheduled to be terminated. State what steps have been taken to inform students and faculty of the intent to terminate the program.**

When the new specialization in the PhD in Teaching and Learning was initiated, enrolled students were given the opportunity to move to the PhD or complete the EdD in Exceptional Student Education. Nine of the 11 students moved, and the remaining two graduated in 2019-20. Faculty teaching in the EdD participated in the planning and decision to create the new specialization, and continue to teach their courses in the PhD in Teaching and Learning.

**4. Please provide the date when the teach-out plan was submitted to SACSCOC. Include a copy of the notification letter with your submission.**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges was informed of the degree closure and provided a teach-out plan on April 15, 2021. A copy of the notification letter is attached.

**5. Provide data (and cite sources) on the gender and racial distribution of students in and faculty affiliated with the program. For faculty, also list the rank and tenure status of all affected individuals.**

The following table compares the previous distribution of students as an EdD and the current breakdown of the new Special Education specialization in the PhD in Teaching and Learning.

	2017-18 N= 11 (Former EdD)		2020-21 N=20 (New PhD Specialization)	
	%	#	%	#
Hispanic	72%	8	60%	12
African Am	9%	1	30%	6
Asian	9%	1	5%	1
non-Res Alien	9%	1	n/a	-
Caucasian	n/a	-	5%	1
Females	82%	9	90%	18

Data source: FIU Office of Analysis and Information Management.

As previously indicated, due to the launch of the PhD specialization there were no faculty negatively affected by this degree closure.





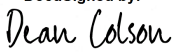
**6. Identify any potential negative impact of the proposed action on the current representation of females, minorities, faculty, and students in the program.**

The program continues to attract a very diverse student body. This continued success was supported by a grant (USDOE Office of Special Education) awarded to FIU with partners at Syracuse Univ. and Arizona State Univ. to recruit and support 12 FIU doctoral students enrolling in the new Special Education specialization.

**7. If this is a baccalaureate program, please explain how and when the Florida College System (FCS) institutions have been notified of its termination so that students can be notified accordingly.**

Not applicable as this is not a baccalaureate program.

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 <hr/> Requestor/Initiator	<hr/> April 19, 2021 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Signature of Campus EO Officer	<hr/> April 29, 2021 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Signature of College Dean	<hr/> April 19, 2021 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Signature of President or Vice President for Academic Affairs	<hr/> 5-7-2021 <hr/> Date
<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <hr/> <small>B74D32DDA92428</small> Signature of Chair of the Board of Trustees	<hr/> 6/17/2021 <hr/> Date
<hr/> June 16, 2021 <hr/> Date Approved by the Board of Trustees	



April 15, 2021

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.  
President  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4497

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

In Fall 2020, the Department of Teaching and Learning submitted a program termination request through the FIU Faculty Senate curricular process for the Doctor of Education in Exceptional Special Education (EdD ESE) (CIP 13.1001). The Faculty Senate approved this request for termination in January 2021 and forwarded the request to the Office of the Provost.

To terminate a doctoral program, per the State University System requirements, these steps must occur: 1. Approval by the faculty governance authority (i.e., FIU's Faculty Senate); 2. Upon the concurrence of Academic Affairs, request and seek recommendation for termination of The Florida International University Board of Trustees (FIU BOT); and 3. The Florida Board of Governors make the final decision to terminate a doctoral program based on the recommendation of the FIU BOT.

FIU's next step in the termination process would be to place this request on the agenda of the FIU BOT meeting of June 16, 2021. However, prior to this step, and in accordance with the Substantive Change for SACSCOC Accredited Institutions – Program Changes Procedures, FIU now seeks approval of its teach-out plan.

In 2019, in conjunction with the renaming of the former doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction to Teaching and Learning, the faculty of the doctorate in Exceptional Student Education created a new area of specialization (Special Education) in the revised PhD program. This provided students the ability to earn a Doctor of Philosophy. Since that time, new students have been pursuing the PhD (the preferred credential) rather than the EdD ESE. Students not wishing to enroll in the PhD had the option to continue in the EdD ESE; these students who availed themselves of this option have now graduated from the EdD ESE. The program faculty determined that it is now time to close the original degree given the popularity and success of the the new specialization in the PhD in Teaching and Learning and to consolidate degree offerings.

For this teach-out plan, the last remaining student graduated in Spring 2020; thus, currently, there are no students enrolled or impacted. The components of the teach-out plan are as follows:

- 1). Attached Substantive Change Cover Sheet.
- 2). Date of closure: Fall 2021 (date students will no longer be admitted).

**Office of the Provost**

*Modesto A. Maidique Campus, PC 526, 11200 SW 8 Street, Miami, FL 33199*

*Tel 305-348-2151 • Fax 305-348-2994 • provost.fiu.edu*

3). An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) will be informed of the impending closure: The program director works closely with potential new doctoral students in Special Education. As a result, students became aware of the exciting opportunity to earn a PhD in Teaching and Learning once the new specialization in Special Education was approved. Since Fall 2019, students have only enrolled in the new PhD option. The EdD ESE program website has been deactivated. Upon approval of SACSCOC, followed by the FIU BOT recommendation for termination and the final decision by the Florida Board of Governors, the program will be removed from the University Catalog and the State University System Academic Program Inventory.

Exceptional Education faculty participated in the discussions regarding and supported the creation of the Special Education specialization in the PhD in Teaching and Learning. Faculty were part of the process to submit the program termination curriculum forms to the Faculty Senate.

4). An explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption or additional costs: All students have graduated from the program as of Spring 2020.

5). Explain whether the students subject to the teach-out plan will incur additional charges or other expenses because of the teach-out and, if so, how the students will be notified: Not applicable.

6). Copies of signed teach-out agreements with other institutions, if applicable: Not applicable.

7). A description of how faculty and staff will be redeployed or helped to find new employment: Faculty or staff will not be terminated or impacted as a result of the decision to close the EdD ESE.

Let me re-affirm that the closure of the EdD ESE will have no adverse effect upon the students, faculty, or staff. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this program closure notification. I look forward to receiving SACSCOC approval of the proposed teach-out plan.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth M. Bejar, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
SACSCOC Liaison

c: Mark B. Rosenberg, Ph.D., President  
Susan P. Himburg, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Academic Planning and  
Accountability