



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### **Welcome to the Survey of Doctoral Students in Special Education**

**This survey is being funded by the Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education**

**January 2009**

### **Informed Consent**

Please read the following thoroughly prior to moving on to the survey

You are being asked to participate in a study funded by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. This study is being coordinated by Dr. Deborah Deutsch Smith in the School of Educational Studies, Claremont Graduate University (CGU) in collaboration with the doctoral program director or coordinator at your college/university. You have been asked to participate in this study because you are a student pursuing a doctoral degree in special education.

#### ***Purpose:***

The purpose of this study is to examine recruitment of students to special education doctoral programs, the specific areas of interests of students currently pursuing doctoral degrees in special education programs, the fiscal support students have received to pursue their doctoral studies, and their future employment plans. We also aim to examine changes that have occurred in these areas since a similar questionnaire was conducted in 1999. Results from a pilot test of this survey indicate that it can take as little as 10 minutes to complete this survey.

#### ***Risks & benefits:***

The risk associated with your participation in this study is the associated time commitment. In order to help minimize this burden, we have created an online survey with automated skip patterns so as to minimize the time that would otherwise be spent potentially responding to questions that are not applicable to your particular situation. Additionally, this survey has been modified to increase the flow and content based upon comments received from a pilot study.

Results from this study will provide us with an updated understanding of students enrolled in doctoral training programs in special education, including changes that have occurred in the characteristics and interests of students since the previous study conducted in 1999.

#### ***Compensation:***

You will receive an online \$10 gift certificate to Amazon.com for your participation in this study. Upon completion of the questionnaire you will be routed to a completion page thanking you for your participation. That page will contain a hyperlink to a separate online questionnaire that asks for the information necessary to send you this incentive.

#### ***Voluntary participation:***

Please understand that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your decision whether or not

to participate will in no way affect your current or future relationship with CGU or its faculty, students, or staff; or with your university, your school, your school's dean, its faculty, staff, or fellow students. You have the right to withdraw from this study at any time without penalty. You also have the right to refuse to answer any questions for any reason without penalty.

**Confidentiality:**

It is anticipated that information from this study will be used in journal publications, briefs, presentations, and other communication media. Information will be presented in aggregated format so as not to identify your individual information. Individual survey responses will not be accessible or shared with the director or coordinator of your program. Your program director or coordinator is collaborating with CGU to request participation in the study and to distribute reminders throughout the course of the study. However, all data you provide will come directly to CGU and will not be shared with your program. Also, please note that the personal information you provide to receive your incentive will not be tied back to your survey responses. This information will strictly be used to enable the distribution of your incentive and will be destroyed at the end of this study.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about this study, please contact Dr. Deborah Deutsch Smith or the SEFNA staff by calling 909-607-8982 or via the project's e-mail address: [sefna@cgu.edu](mailto:sefna@cgu.edu). The CGU Institutional Review Board, which is administered through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), has approved this project. You may also contact ORSP at (909) 607-9406 with any questions.

Please note that your completion and return of this survey is considered to reflect your consent to participate in this study.

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4% Complete



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We are interested in learning more about the characteristics of students such as yourself who are pursuing doctoral degrees in special education. The questions below ask for information on your educational background, experiences as a doctoral student, and current career plans.

In answering all questions about your doctoral training, include your work on a master's degree if this training occurred in the same department and institution.

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### PART A: TYPE OF DOCTORAL PROGRAM

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#### 1. What is/was your college or university?

CLICK HERE 

If your school is not listed, please enter it here:

#### 2. Are you enrolled as a doctoral student in a special education program in January 2009?

- Yes, I am a doctoral student in a special education program.
- Yes, I was a doctoral student and have now completed my doctoral degree in special education.
- No, I am neither a doctoral student nor a doctoral graduate in special education

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8% Complete



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**3. What is your primary area of specialization or concentration within special education? (please select all that apply)**

- Adapted physical education
- Assistive technology
- Autism
- Bilingual special education
- Combined studies: general education and special education
- Deaf/blindness
- Deafness and/or hard-of-hearing
- Developmental delay and intellectual disabilities
- Early childhood/early intervention
- Educational leadership
- Emotional or behavioral disorders
- General special education, cross-categorical, generic, multi-categorical or non-categorical
- General special education, mild or moderate
- Inclusive/collaborative practices
- Intellectual disabilities (mental retardation): mild/moderate
- Intellectual disabilities (mental retardation): severe
- Learning disabilities
- Low incidence disabilities/multiple disabilities/severe disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Physical/orthopedic impairment
- Special education for youth in correctional facilities
- Speech and language impairments
- Transition
- Traumatic brain injury
- Visual impairment and/or blindness
- Other (please specify):

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12% Complete



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### PART B: EXPERIENCES IN APPLYING TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

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**4. When you applied for admission to this doctoral program in special education, approximately how many doctoral programs did you apply to in...**

**# of programs**

Special education

CLICK HERE ▼

Other fields in education

CLICK HERE ▼

Other disciplines (e.g. psychology)

CLICK HERE ▼

**5. What was the furthest distance from your home and any institution to which you applied?**

CLICK HERE ▼

**6. Were any of these programs in...** (please select all that apply)

- The same city in which you were living
- Other cities but in the same state in which you were then living
- Another state where you had previously lived
- States other than the one in which you were then living
- Countries other than the one in which you were then living

**7. When you were applying to special education doctoral programs, which of the following sources did you use to learn more about these programs?** (please select all that apply)

- Brochures and other materials sent by programs
- Information available on department web sites or home pages
- Personal contacts (e.g., letters or telephone calls) with current faculty and students in these programs
- Conversations with other individuals (e.g., previous graduates and co-workers) who

were familiar with one or more doctoral programs

Advertisements for programs which appeared in journals, newsletters, or other professional outlets

Advertisements for programs which were distributed at local, regional, or national conferences and meetings

Other (please specify):

**8. What was your status when you were applying to doctoral programs? (please select all that apply)**

Full-time or part-time graduate student

Staff/faculty member in a department or other unit within a college or university

Teacher in a local school, school system, or other educational or direct services organization

Staff member in a local school, school system, or other educational or direct services organization

Administrator in a local school, school system, or other educational or direct services organization

Staff member, administrator, or other personnel in an organization other than those mentioned above

Not employed

Other (please specify):

**9. Prior to applying to your doctoral program, how many years of experience did you have as...**

A teacher (kindergarten to 12 grade)

An administrator (e.g. principal, superintendent)

District Program Coordinator or Supervisor

University/college level administrator

**10. How do you think a doctoral degree will help your career? Do you think it will...**

Help you begin your first career

Help you further a career you had already started

Help you change careers

Help in ways not related to your career

**11. Please indicate the extent to which each of the following contributed to your decision to enroll in your current doctoral program.**

A great deal
Somewhat
Not much or not at all
Not applicable

- a. The opportunity to work with specific faculty members
- b. The amount of financial support offered to me by the program
- c. The lower cost (i.e. tuition and fees) of attending this program compared to other programs
- d. The specific concentration of the program (e.g., deaf education or learning disabilities)
- e. The program's national reputation in special education
- f. The fact that I would not have to relocate (move to another city or to another state)
- g. The fact that I would be near family and/or close friends
- h. The attractive geographic location (e.g., cultural or recreational opportunities)
- i. The job, career, or educational needs of my spouse, partner or children
- j. The program's commitment to addressing the needs of its students (e.g., schedule of evening classes and weekend courses)
- k. Program distance learning options (please specify in question 12 below)
- l. Other options not listed above (please specify in question 12 below)

**12. If you checked an item in letter "k" and/or "l" above, provide a description of this item (or items) in the space below**

**Month**

**Year**

**13. When did you first enroll in this doctoral program?**

**14. How far away is the doctoral program that you are now attending from where you were living when you applied?**

**15. Did you relocate in order to enroll as a doctoral student in this program?**

- Yes
- No

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17% Complete



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### PART C: CURRENT DOCTORAL STUDY

**16. In January 2009, were (are) you considered by your institution, based on your university/college's policy, to be a...**

- Full-time student, even if you work full-time or part-time
- Part-time student
- Other (please specify):

**17. Since you first enrolled in this doctoral program, have you been primarily a...**

- Full-time student, even if you work full-time or part-time
- Part-time student
- Other (please specify):

**18. Which of the following BEST describes your current status in the doctoral program?**

- I still have to complete required course work for my doctoral degree
- I have completed all required course work for my doctoral degree
- I have passed the required qualifying or comprehensive exams for my doctoral degree
- The proposal for my dissertation research/thesis has been formally approved
- I have completed my doctoral dissertation/thesis

**19. Did you receive a tuition waiver or discount for your doctoral studies?** (This could either be a separate source of support or part of a financial support package, e.g., as part of a teaching assistantship.)

**For the current semester?** (select all that apply)

- Yes, I receive tuition support
- Yes, I receive a living allowance
- No, I do not receive tuition support or a living allowance
- I am not enrolled in the current semester



**For the Fall 2008 semester? (select all that apply)**

- Yes, I received tuition support
- Yes, I received a living allowance
- No, I did not receive tuition support or a living allowance
- I was not enrolled in the Fall 2008 semester

**20. Is the support that you noted as receiving in question 19 above consistent with the funding you received during the last academic year?**

- Yes
- No
- I was not enrolled in this college/university during the last academic year

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21% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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**21. During the past academic year, did you receive a tuition waiver or discount for your doctoral studies?** (This could either be a separate source of support or part of a financial support package, e.g., as part of a teaching assistantship.)

**For the Fall 2007 academic term?** (*select all that apply*)

- Yes, I received tuition support
- Yes, I received a living allowance
- No, I did not receive tuition support or a living allowance
- I was not enrolled in the fall semester

**For the winter/spring academic term?** (*select all that apply*)

- Yes, I received tuition support
- Yes, I received a living allowance
- No, I did not receive tuition support or a living allowance
- I was not enrolled in the spring semester

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25% Complete



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**22. From which of the following do you currently receive the most financial support?**

- Loans
- University support
- Family assistance
- Work
- Other (please specify):

**23. Which statement best describes your current employment status?** (Include any work that you are doing for pay or profit, including research or teaching assistantships and work related to your degree.)

- Employed full-time outside of the college/university (35 or more hours per week)
- Employed part-time outside of the college/university (less than 35 hours per week)
- Employed part-time at the college/university on a fellowship, assistantship, or traineeship
- Employed part-time as a staff member at the college/university
- Employed full-time as a staff member at the college/university
- Not employed
- Other (Please specify):

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29% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### 24. Which category best describes your current position?

- Faculty (includes teaching and/or research in a college or university in either regular or adjunct positions)
- Teaching or provision of direct services in an elementary or secondary school, a system, or another type of educational organization (includes teaching assessment, counseling, guidance, school psychological services, prevention, and consultation)
- Educational administration or administration of direct services (includes such positions as program director, professional development director, principal, or other administrator of educational or direct services)
- Research/evaluation (includes basic or applied research and evaluation and non-faculty positions in academic or non academic organizations)
- Other type of position (please specify):

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33% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### PART D: POST-GRADUATION PLANS

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25. As of August 2009, will you have completed all requirements for your doctoral degree?

- Yes
- No

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38% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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Month

Year

**25a. When do you expect to receive your doctoral degree?**

CLICK HERE ▼

CLICK HERE ▼

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42% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### 26. What are your plans upon receiving your doctoral degree in special education?

- Obtain a postdoc (a "postdoc" is a temporary position in academe, government, or other settings primarily for gaining additional training in research)
- Continue in my current position
- Return to the position which I had before entering this doctoral program
- Seek a new position (different from your current position)
- Not seek employment
- Don't know
- Other (please specify):

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46% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### 27. In what type of setting do you plan to work?

- A preschool, elementary, middle, or secondary school
- A school system district office
- Another type of educational organization (e.g. adult or special education)
- A 2-year college or junior college
- A 4-year college or university
- A university-affiliated research institute
- A state government agency
- A federal government agency
- A research institute or organization not affiliated with a university
- A non-profit organization other than the above (e.g., private foundation)
- A for-profit company or corporation other than the above (e.g., a test publisher)
- Other (please specify):

### 28. What category best describes the type of position that you plan to have upon completing your doctoral degree?

- Faculty (includes teaching and/or research in a college or university in either regular or adjunct positions)
  - Teaching or provision of direct services in an elementary or secondary school, a school system, or another type of organization (includes teaching, assessment, counseling, guidance, school psychological services, prevention, and consultation)
  - Educational administration or administration of direct services (includes such positions as program director, professional development director, principal, or other administrator of educational or direct services)
  - Research/evaluation (includes basic or applied research and evaluation and non-faculty positions in academic or non-academic organizations)
  - Other type of position (please specify):

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50% Complete





## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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**29. Which of the following factors are important in your choice of a position? Select up to three of the items on the following list.**

- Salary
- Fringe benefits (e.g., on-site child care, retirement benefits, etc.)
- Opportunities for promotion and career advancement
- Degree of interesting or rewarding work
- Job security
- Working conditions (e.g., hours, working environment, facilities, equipment)
- Staff with whom I will be working most closely (e.g., conducting research, writing articles, revising curriculum)
- Populations with whom I will be working (e.g., individuals with learning disabilities)
- Desire to not relocate or move to another city or state
- Geographic location of the job (cultural and recreational opportunities)
- Career, employment, or other needs of family (e.g., a spouse's or significant other's job, school needs of children, proximity to family)
- Match to my area of expertise
- Other (please specify)

**30. To what extent does your current family situation impact your career goals?**

- Has no impact
- Has not much of an impact
- Has somewhat an impact
- Has a great deal of an impact

**31. Are you currently seeking, or have you already obtained a "career path" position that will begin after you complete your degree? (A "career path" is a position that is consistent with your future career plans. It can either be a job or a postdoctoral training position.)**

- Yes, I have signed a contract or made a definite commitment for work or study
- Yes, I am negotiating with one or more specific organizations
- Yes, I am seeking a position but have not specific prospects as yet
- No, I am not currently seeking a position
- I am too early in the program for this to be a consideration

Other (please specify):

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54% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

**32. Please indicate the extent to which you used the following resources in seeking a position.**

	A great deal	Somewhat	Not much or not at all	Not applicable
a. Chronicle of Higher Education (newspaper or online)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. College or department placement office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Direct contacts which you initiated (e.g., sent unsolicited vita)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Faculty or advisors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Informal channels through colleagues and friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Newspapers (other than Chronicle of Higher Education)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Postings on web sites of professional or other relevant organizations (other than Chronicle of Higher Education)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Professional journals and newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Professional meetings or conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Professional recruiters such as "head hunters"	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Other (please specify in question 33 below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**33. In question 32 above, if you indicated using another resource (or resources) than those listed in seeking a position. Please provide a description of the other resource (or resources) you used in the space below.**

**34. In seeking a position, approximately how many...**

**Approximate number**

a. Different FACULTY positions have you applied

for?

CLICK HERE ▼

b. Different NON-FACULTY positions have you applied for?

CLICK HERE ▼

c. Different FACULTY job offers have you received?

CLICK HERE ▼

d. Different NON-FACULTY job offers have you received?

CLICK HERE ▼

**35. Have you accepted a job offer?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable, I have not received a job offer

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58% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### 36. Was the job offer that you accepted your first choice?

- Yes, it was my first choice
- No, I would prefer to have obtained the same type of position but one in a different institution or organization
  - No, I would prefer to have obtained a faculty position
  - No, I would prefer to have obtained a teaching or direct services position
  - No, I would prefer to have obtained an educational administration position or one involving the administration of direct services
  - No, I would prefer to have obtained a research position
  - No, I would prefer to have obtained another position (please specify):

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62% Complete



### Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

**37. Based on your own observations, how do you rate the job market for individuals who graduate from your doctoral program?**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

**38. At this point in time, how satisfied are you with your doctoral program in terms of the training you receive in:**

	<u>Level of Satisfaction or Dissatisfaction</u>						
	Completely satisfied	Mostly satisfied	Neutral	Mostly dissatisfied	Completely dissatisfied	Don't know	Not applicable
Diagnosis and assessment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Intervention strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research/evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consultation/education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administration/supervision	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elementary and secondary school teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
College teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural and linguistic diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data-based/evidence-based practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**39. At this point in time, how satisfied are you with your doctoral program overall?**

- Completely satisfied
- Mostly satisfied
- Neutral
- Mostly dissatisfied
- Completely dissatisfied
- Don't know

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67% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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### PART E: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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#### 40. Are you...

- Female
- Male

#### 41. What is your marital status?

- Married
- Living in a legal partnership
- Widowed
- Separated/Divorced
- Never married

#### 42. Not including yourself, how many dependents do you have? (A dependent is someone who receives at least one half of their support from you.)

▼

#### 43. What is your citizenship status?

- U.S. citizen, native-born
- U.S. citizen, naturalized
- Non-U.S. citizen, permanent U.S. resident visa
- Temporary U.S. resident visa



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44. Of which country are you a citizen? Please enter it in the following area:

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75% Complete





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[Click here for ethnicity definitions of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino](#)

**45. Are you of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin?**

- Yes
- No

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79% Complete



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45a. Which of the following categories best describe your Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin?

Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano

Puerto Rican

Cuban

Other (Please specify):

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83% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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[Click here for descriptions of the following race categories](#)

**46. Please check one of the following categories (Note even if you had checked the ethnicity of "Spanish/Hispanic/Latino", are are also asked to check a race category)**

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Black or African American
- White
- Bi/Multiracial
- Unknown/Decline to State

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88% Complete



## Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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Month

Year

47. In what month and year were you born?

CLICK HERE ▼

48. Are you a person with a disability? *(For the purposes of this survey, a doctoral student with a disability meets one or more of the following criteria: 1) has a disability based on the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act 2) has a documented disability and received disability related services in higher education 3) had either an IEP or a 504 plan during elementary and/or high school.)*

- Yes  
 No

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92% Complete



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48a. Which of the following categories describe your disability? (please select all that apply)

- Visual
- Orthopedic (mobility)
- Auditory (hearing)
- Vocal
- Learning Disability
- Other (Please specify):

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96% Complete



### Special Education Faculty Needs Assessment

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49. If you have any additional comments about your experiences as a doctoral student in special education, please provide them in the space below:

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100% Complete



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### CONFIRMATION PAGE

#### YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE SURVEY

We sincerely thank you for your participation in this online survey. We anticipate that this work will provide us with an updated understanding of the characteristics and interests of students enrolled in doctoral training programs in special education, including changes that have occurred in these characteristics and interests since the previous study conducted in 1999.

If you have any questions about this survey or would like to discuss any particular issues that arose while you were taking the survey, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Deborah Deutsch Smith, or the SEFNA staff by calling 909-607-8982 or at the project's e-mail address: [sefna@cgu.edu](mailto:sefna@cgu.edu).

**Please click on the link below to be redirected to the site where you can fill out the information we need to send you a gift certificate!**

[CLICK HERE TO BE DIRECTED TO INCENTIVE PAGE \(link available in online survey only\)](#)



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### **American Indian or Alaska Native**

Includes original peoples from North, South, and Central America

### **Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander**

Includes people having origins in Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands

### **Asian:**

Includes people having origins in Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian subcontinent or Japanese and Filipino islands

### **Black or African American:**

Includes people having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa such as Nigerian, Haitian

### **White:**

Includes people having origins from Europe, Middle East, or North Africa

### **Bi/Multi-racial:**

Includes individuals having origins from more than one of the aforementioned categories.





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### **Spanish/Hispanic/Latino:**

**Defined as a "person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race."  
(Obtained from the Office of Management and Budget)**



### SPECIAL EDUCATION FACULTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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Thank you for completing the Survey of Doctoral Students in special education. In appreciation of the time and effort you have given us we would like to provide you with an Amazon.com gift certificate. In order to do so we need the following information. Please note this information will be kept in a separate file from your survey responses and will be destroyed after the survey has come to a close. You should anticipate receiving the gift certificate in your email inbox within approximately one month.

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1. In what college or university is your doctoral program located?

CLICK HERE

If your school is not listed, please enter it here:

2. In the space below, please provide us with the email address where you would like us to deliver the Amazon.com online gift certificate.

3. Please enter your email address again.

Submit



**SPECIAL EDUCATION FACULTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

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**Thank you very much for your participation.  
You will receive the Amazon online gift certificate in your email inbox in the near future.**