

# Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Guidelines

## Georgia Southern University

### College of Education

#### **The Education Specialist Program Overview**

The Ed.S. program is designed to provide a high level of professional proficiency based on the discipline: Counselor Education, Educational Leadership, Teaching and Learning, or School Psychology. The Ed.S. curriculum is based on an inquiry approach that emphasizes problem-solving and research skills applicable to a multitude of education problems, pedagogy, and issues. Ed.S. programs require a minimum of 30 semester hours of planned course work that includes a research sequence which culminates in a field-based educational research project. The Ed.S. candidate works with a committee comprised of at least 3 faculty members who guide the development, implementation, and defense of the field study. The value of the field-based research project is evidenced in the ability of candidates to become capable researchers and critical consumers of educational research. As candidates conduct “action research” projects, they are better equipped to inform their profession. The project serves to develop important inquiry skills that are needed by education professionals who are responsible for the achievement of students and the improvement of schools.

#### ***Program- Specific Overview Information:***

##### **The Ed.S. Research Component**

Three specific research courses are required components in the Education Specialist program. These courses provide the candidate with theoretical knowledge, practical knowledge, and skills in the area of education research, statistics, and inquiry. The courses must be taken in sequence and are not to be taken concurrently. Some programs may provide one or more courses prior to EDUR 8131 to assist in the identification of a research topic that is appropriate and feasible for an Ed.S. project and that is relevant to the candidate’s professional situation.

I. **EDUR 8131 *Educational Statistics*** / is an introductory statistics course which provides an orientation to both descriptive and inferential statistics and methods of conducting educational research. It is a prerequisite course for EDUR 8434 and may be taken at the master’s level.

II. **EDUR 8434 *Field-Based Educational Research*** is the second course in the research sequence. Candidates must have a research topic formulated and present that topic to the EDUR 8434 instructor at the beginning of the course using the Preliminary Ed.S. Research Topic Form (Form A). Form A requires the approval of the candidate and his/her Ed.S. Committee Chair. A viable research proposal, which includes the statement of the problem, a literature review, hypotheses or research questions, and research method, is developed in EDUR 8434. The EDUR 8434 instructor is responsible for (a) guiding candidates in the proposal development process, (b) providing general information to candidates about IRB requirements and processes, (c) evaluating candidate proposals using a performance rubric, and (d) assigning course grades. Candidates must meet at least “acceptable” ratings on all elements of the rubric in order to earn a passing grade for the course. EDUR 8434 is not offered during summer sessions.

At the end of the EDUR 8434 course, candidates complete the Ed.S. Research Topic Approval Form (Form B) and have it approved by the EDUR 8434 instructor and the Ed.S. Committee Chair.

**The candidate must also determine if IRB approval is needed and, if so, complete the IRB application before attending the first class session of XXXX8839. Data cannot be collected prior to IRB approval.**

See [http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/research/compliance\\_irb.htm](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/research/compliance_irb.htm).

**III. XXXX 8839**, the final course in the research sequence, is intended to be the culminating experience in the Ed.S. program. In this course, the candidate implements the field study using the proposal developed in EDUR 8434. The XXXX 8839 instructor guides the candidate in the implementation process and is responsible for evaluating the research project and assigning the final course grade. Specific instructor responsibilities include offering guidance on data collection, data analysis, writing the research paper, and preparing for the oral defense. XXXX8839 is not offered during the summer time.

The research project is documented in a formal paper that is comprised of the EDUR 8434 proposal, results, and discussion. The project is then orally defended in a meeting with the candidate's Ed.S. Committee members. This defense serves as the exit assessment for the program. The purpose of the defense is to assess the candidate's knowledge of the topic area, the adequacy of the candidate's application of research principles, and the ability of the candidate to articulate the results and implications of the study. The defense consists of a formal presentation by the candidate, followed by questions from the EdS Committee. Committee judgments should be succinct and communicated on Form D.

### **The Ed.S. Advisor:**

When the candidate is admitted to the Ed.S. program, an Ed.S. faculty advisor is assigned. The Ed.S. Advisor will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Assist the candidate with understanding the program of study, including the sequence of courses within the program
- Assist the candidate with registration and selection of appropriate courses
- EdS candidate and advisor will identify a faculty member willing to serve as Chair of the EdS Committee.

### **The Ed.S. Committee Structure and Ed.S. Chair:**

The Chair will serve as the content specialist for the research study. In some cases, the Ed.S. Advisor serves as the candidate's Ed.S. Committee Chair. Ed.S. Committees must consist of at least three faculty members: the Ed.S. Chair, the XXXX 8839 instructor, and the EDUR 8434 instructor or other recommended research specialist. Additional members may be included on the committee as determined by the Ed.S. Committee Chair and the candidate.

The Ed.S. Committee Chair will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Serve as the content specialist for the research study
- Provide guidance during the development and completion of the research study and paper and determine readiness for the final defense. Complete Form C
- Sign the Preliminary Research Topic Form (Form A) and Research Topic Approval Form (Form B) and maintain copies of these forms
- Review and sign the IRB approval application, assuring that it is complete and meets all requirements
- Communicate candidate progress to other Committee members
- Chair the Ed.S. research study defense
- Complete the Ed.S. Comprehensive Assessment Form (Form D) with the appropriate signatures and file it with a final copy of the research paper in the COE Instructional Resource Center (IRC)

### **The Ed.S. Candidate:**

The Ed.S. candidate is expected to read the Georgia Southern University catalog and the College of Graduate Studies website (<http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu>) and carry out all the responsibilities identified for graduate students. These include:

- Communicate with the Ed.S. Advisor at the outset of the program to discuss the candidate's program of study and to receive an advisement checklist and then to regularly communicate with the Advisor regarding program of study
- Keep abreast of and adhere to all deadlines, including those for registration, IRB application, application for graduation, and Ed.S. defense

- Regularly check the Georgia Southern University email account, or have it forwarded to your personal email account, so all important information from the College of Graduate Studies will be received

As related to the Ed.S. field-based research process, candidate responsibilities include:

- Identify a faculty member willing to serve as Ed.S. Committee Chair by the end of six semester hours
- Consult with the Ed.S. Chair about possible research topics that complement the candidate's professional objectives and course of study
- Consult with the Advisor about appropriate courses to take. Consult also with the Ed.S. Committee Chair if content expertise is needed for selection of elective courses.
- Secure the approval and signature of the Ed.S. Committee Chair on the Preliminary Research Topic Form (Form A). Submit this form, along with any revisions made and approved to the instructor of EDUR 8434 at the first class session
- Secure the signatures of the Ed.S. Chair and the instructor of EDUR 8434 on the Research Topic Approval Form (Form B). Submit Form B to the EDUR 8434 instructor before the end of the course and to the XXXX8839 instructor at the beginning of the course
- Review the information on GSU's IRB webpage  
[http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/research/compliance\\_irb.htm](http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/research/compliance_irb.htm)
- Complete IRB training (on-line at <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>) and complete the IRB application while enrolled in EDUR 8434 (if planning to enroll in XXXX 8839 the next semester). Submit the IRB application to the Ed.S. Committee Chair for review and signature, then submit it to the University's IRB Board prior to entering XXXX 8839.
- If conditional IRB approval given, meet all conditions, including acquisition of any needed permissions, and submit to the IRB prior to initiation of data collection.
- Schedule the Ed.S. defense at least 4 weeks in advance
- Secure signatures on the Ed.S. Comprehensive Assessment Application (Form C) and file in the department with the Ed.S. Committee Chair
- Submit a final copy of the Ed.S. research paper to all committee members at least 2 weeks in advance of the defense
- Defend the Ed.S. research project orally before your committee and make subsequent revisions requested by your committee
- Submit a final copy of the paper to the EdS Advisor, EdS Committee Chair, and the COE Associate Dean

Forms attached below:

Form A: Preliminary Ed.S. Research Topic Form ([Form A online](#))

Form B: Ed.S. Research Topic Approval Form ([Form B online](#))

Form C: Ed.S. Comprehensive Assessment Application Form ([Form C online](#))

Form D: Completion of Ed.S. Comprehensive Assessment Form ([Form D online](#))

# PRELIMINARY ED.S. RESEARCH TOPIC FORM (FORM A)

This form is to be completed by the candidate and Ed.S. Committee Chair. Submit this form, along with any revisions made during the course of the program, to the instructor of EDUR 8434 at the first class session. If not completed satisfactorily and submitted by at least the second class session, the candidate will be expected to withdraw from EDUR 8434 and reschedule the course at a later date. A completed copy of this form is to be filed with the Ed.S. Committee Chair.

Department		Program	
Last Name	First	MI	
Address			
City, State	Zip	Email Address	
Eagle ID	Daytime Phone	Home Phone	

Subject of Research Project:

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Brief Description of Action Research Project:

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Ed.S. Committee Chair

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ED.S. RESEARCH TOPIC APPROVAL FORM (FORM B)

This form must be completed, signed, and submitted to the XXXX 8839 Instructor at the first class session. A copy of the candidate's Field Project Proposal and the instructor's assessment rubric (verifying acceptable performance in all categories) that were completed in EDUR 8434 must accompany this form. Copies of this signed form must also be submitted to the Ed.S. Committee.

Department		Program	
Last Name	First	MI	
Eagle ID		Email Address	

Title of Research Project:

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Brief Description of Action Research, including research question and methods:

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In signing we confirm our approval of the research topic, project description and research design, as outlined in the candidate's proposal.

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Ed.S. Committee Chair

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Date

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EDUR 8434 Field-Based Research Professor

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Date

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Candidate

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Date

# ED.S. APPLICATION TO DEFEND ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT (FORM C)

Department		Program	
Last Name	First	MI	
Address			
City, State Zip			
Eagle ID	Daytime Phone	Home Phone	
Date and Time Requested		Email Address	

Title of Research Project:

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Abstract: (Describe your project in 100 words or less. Please type. If final results are not yet available, please note.)

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Ed.S. Committee Chair's Signature	Date	EDUR 8434 Instructor's or Committee Member's Signature	Date
XXXX 8839 Instructor's Signature	Date	Candidate's Signature	Date

**A completed copy of this form is to be filed with Ed.S. Committee Chair.**

# COMPLETION OF ED.S. COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT (Form D)

Department		Program	
Last Name	First	MI	
Address			
City, State	Zip	Email Address	
Eagle ID	Daytime Phone	Home Phone	

Title of Research Project:

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## ASSESSMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXIT REQUIREMENTS:

Pass

Revisions Required

Revisions:

Date Revisions are Due \_\_\_\_\_

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In signing, we affirm our presence on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock for the presentation specified above and our concurrence with the assessment finding.

### Ed.S. Committee Members:

_____	_____
Ed.S. Committee Chair	Date
_____	_____
XXXX 8839 Instructor	Date
_____	_____
EDUR 8434 Instructor Or Committee Member	Date

**A completed copy of this form is to be filed with the Ed.S. Committee Chair, XXXX 8839 Instructor, and the Associate Dean.**