

The logo for 'LADDER' features the word in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The letter 'A' is replaced by a white ladder graphic. A yellow line graph with four circular markers is overlaid on the ladder and extends across the top of the word 'LADDER'.

LADDER

LEADERS IN ADVANCING DATA DECISIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

≡ Welcome ≡

Information Session

October 2024



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Project Director

Jessica Toste



Co-Director

Chris Doabler



Coordinator

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Co-Director

Kristen McMaster



LADDER Program Overview

LADDER Program Purpose

LADDER aims to address persistent educational inequities in access to appropriate supports and services for students with intensive needs, including learning disabilities (LD)

- **Improve delivery of intensive, individualized academic interventions**
- **Build expertise needed to advance the study and effective implementation of DBI**

1. Knowledge related to academic interventions in reading, writing, and STEM
2. Knowledge related to curriculum-based measurement (CBM) and other assessment methods that inform instruction through DBDM processes
3. Skills needed to conduct and disseminate high-quality research related to DBI
4. Teacher preparation skills grounded in effective professional development approaches
5. Robust understanding of expectations required to be successful in academia across a range of institutions of higher education

Eligibility



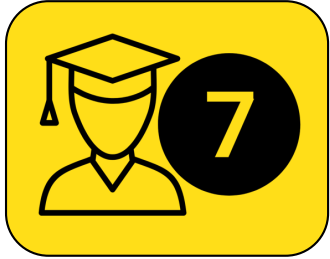
Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

- Admission to PhD program based on criteria set by UT Austin and UMN
- Master's degree in special education (or a closely related field)
- Strong academic performance
- Professional experience in special education or a related field (3+ years preferred)
- Commitment to seeking a leadership position in the field of special education
- Citizenship or permanent resident status in the United States

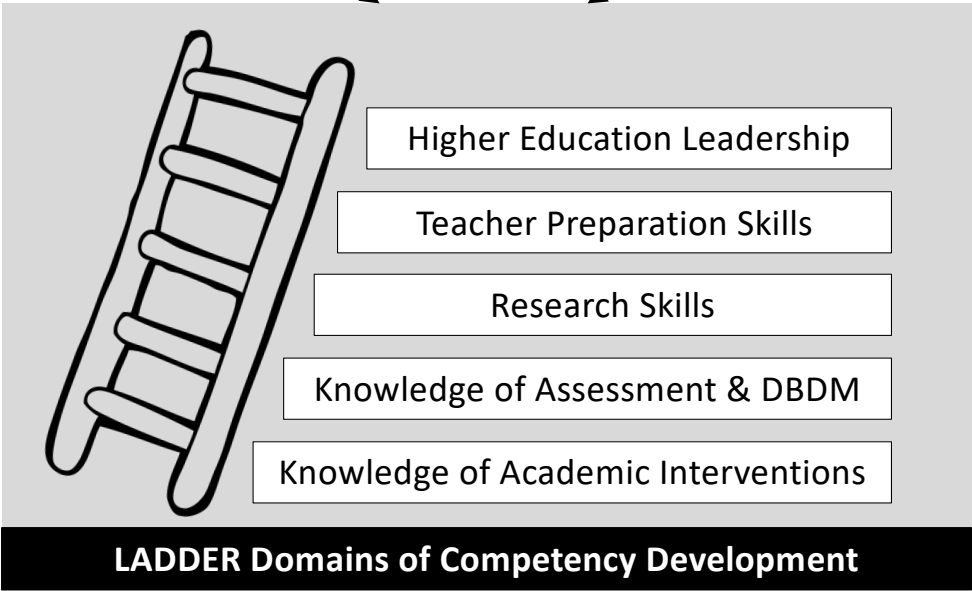
This is a four-year program and a full-time commitment

You will spend 20+ hours per week on coursework and program requirements, and 20+ hours per week on research projects





PhD Coursework &
Program Benchmarks



High-quality leaders with expertise in data-based instruction to enhance delivery of academic interventions that improve outcomes for students with LD

PhD in Special Education

PhD Program

To be considered for LADDER Program, you must *first* apply and be admitted to:

Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders (LD/BD) PhD

Department of Special Education, The University of Texas at Austin

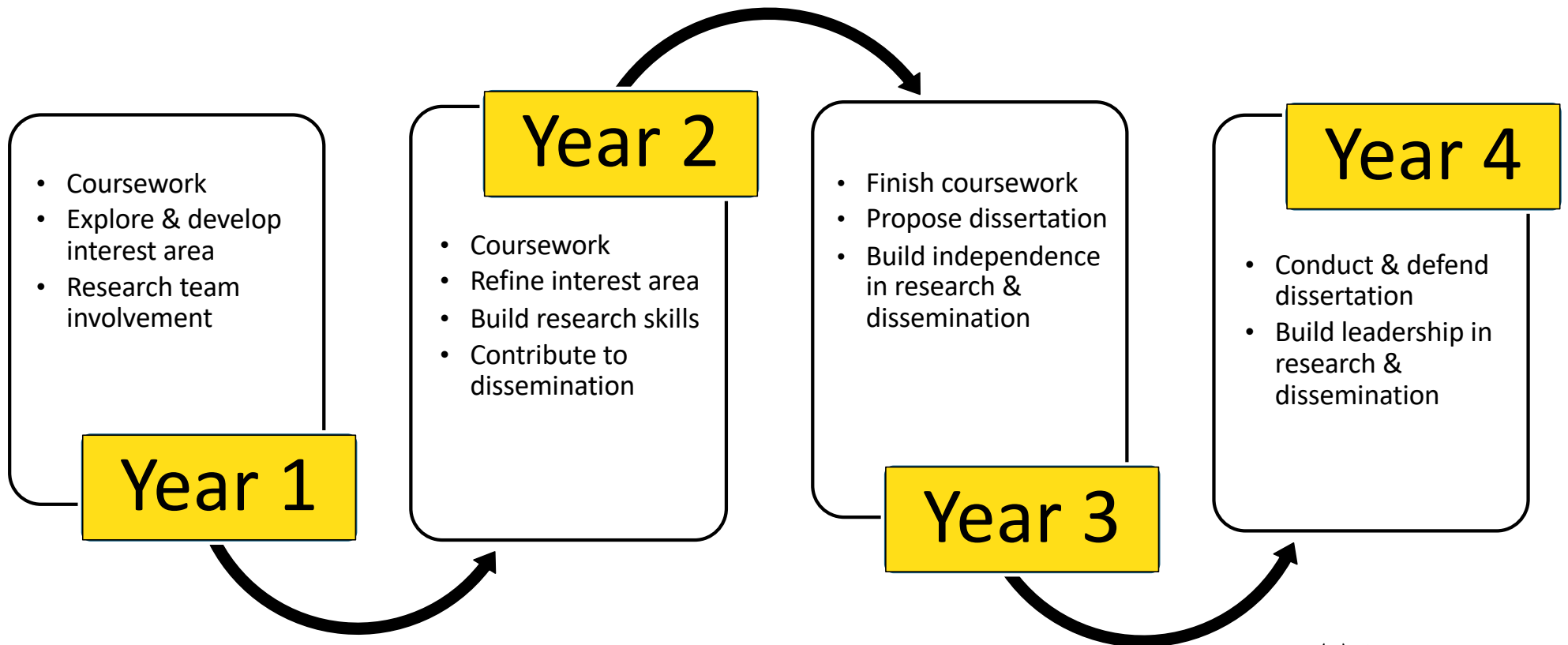


Special Education PhD

Department of Educational Psychology, University of Minnesota



Four-Year Overview



LD/BD Program at UT Austin



Professional Core (18 credits)

- Professional Seminar A & B
- Diversity & Disability
- College Teaching
- Research Mentoring (Research Competency)

Specialization Core (12 credits)

- Trends & Issues in LD/BD
- Seminar in Reading Disabilities
- Seminar in Math Disabilities

Research Core (18-21 credits)

- Intervention Research in LD
- Advanced Statistical Methods
- Grant Writing

Dissertation (6+ credits)



PhD Program at UMN



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Ed Psychology Core (24 credits)

- History/Systems, Social, Learning & Cognition (9 cr)
- Statistics & Measurement (9 cr)
- Research Methods (6 cr), including SCD

Milestones

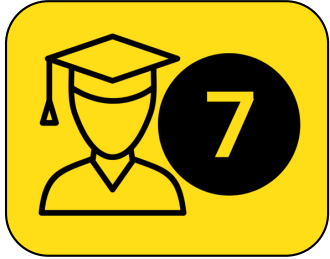
- Predissertation
- Written Preliminary Exams
- Oral Preliminary Exams
- Dissertation Prospectus

Special Education Core (18 credits)

- Professional Seminars (6 cr)
- Grant Writing (3 cr)
- Electives (9 cr)

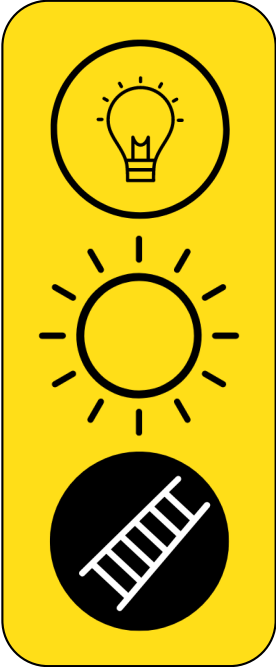
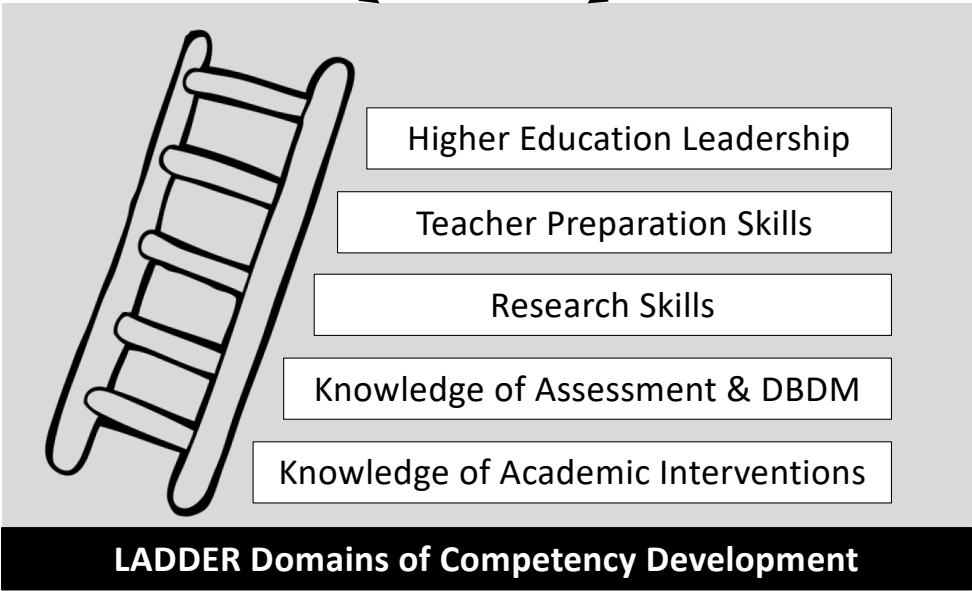
Thesis credits (24 cr)

LADDER Training Program



















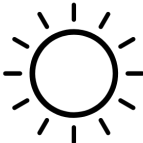

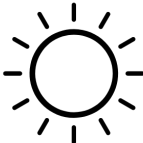

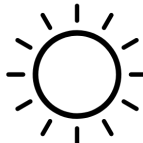

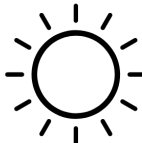
PhD Coursework &
Program Benchmarks

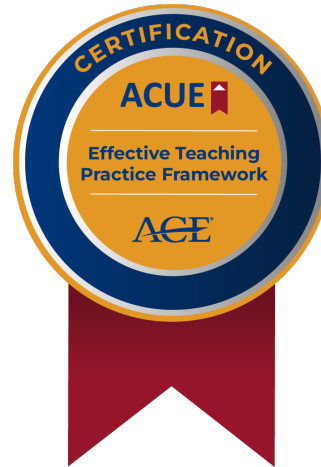
LADDER Seminar
LADDER Summer Institute
LADDER Projects & Experiences



High-quality leaders with expertise in data-based instruction to enhance delivery of academic interventions that improve outcomes for students with LD

LADDER Program Overview

	Year 1 (2025-2026)	Year 2 (2026-2027)	Year 3 (2027-2028)	Year 4 (2028-2029)
Fall	 	 	 	 
Spring	 	 	 	 
Summer		 	 	 
Ongoing	School-Based Research			



Scholar Support



	Year 1 (2025-2026)	Year 2 (2026-2027)	Year 3 (2027-2028)	Year 4 (2028-2029)
Tuition & Health	Coverage for two long semesters (fall/spring) & summer semester for four years total			
Monthly Stipend	\$2,750/month \$33,000/year	\$2,750/month \$33,000/year	\$2,750/month \$33,000/year	\$2,750/month \$33,000/year
Travel	\$4,000 \$1,500 <i>Summer Institute</i>	\$3,000 \$1,500 <i>Summer Institute</i>	\$3,000 \$1,500 <i>Summer Institute</i>	\$1,500 \$1,500 <i>Summer Institute</i>
Materials	\$2,500 laptop	\$1,000	\$600	
Research Support		\$3,500	\$3,500	\$8,500

Application & Selection Process

- 1 PhD Program Application**
- 2 LADDER Contact**
- 3 LADDER Selection Process**

1 PhD Program Application

2 LADDER Contact

3 LADDER Selection Process

- Submit application by December 1st

---> Application Form

---> Transcripts

- Completion of bachelor's & master's degrees from accredited institutions
- Satisfactory GPA

---> Personal Statement (3 pages)

---> Curriculum Vitae/Resume

---> Letters of Recommendation

- Three letters from individuals who can speak to your academic performance and experience

GRE is not required



1 PhD Program Application

2 LADDER Contact

3 LADDER Selection Process

- Submit application by December 1st
- Review by faculty members
- Discussion(s) with faculty members
- Admissions notification email
 - This will come from the Department
 - Admission to the program and financial offer will follow

If admitted to PhD Program

PhD Admissions Questions

Kelsey Samsel



Interim Graduate Coordinator

kelsey.samsel@austin.utexas.edu

Graduate School



Tel.: 612-625-3014

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

For SPED specific questions:

Form at edpsych.umn.edu/contact

1 PhD Program Application **2** LADDER Contact **3** LADDER Selection Process

- Faculty conduct secondary review of applications to identify candidates eligible for LADDER Program
- LADDER invitation email
 - This will come from LADDER Program faculty

1 PhD Program Application

2 LADDER Contact

3 LADDER Selection Process

- Submit brief application form
- Schedule interview with faculty
 - Two faculty members (potential advisor and faculty from partner institution)
 - Share questions in advance

LADDER Offer Notification
Acceptance Decisions by April 15th

