Ph.D. in Higher Education

The Ph.D. degree in Higher Education is intended for individuals seeking to gain methodological, theoretical, and contextual knowledge related to issues involving post-secondary education and the skills necessary to conduct original, empirical research.

Admission Requirements: Competitive applicants to the program must have a completed masters degree and will typically have a graduate grade point average of at least 3.25. Relevant professional work experience is also a factor that may be considered in admissions decisions. Applicants are also required to have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Process: The program application is submitted through the Graduate School, which requires the submission of official transcripts and GRE scores from the past five years (that include a writing component score). In addition, the program requires supplemental materials, which may be uploaded as part of the online application, and include a statement of purpose, resume, and three reference letters. If an application meets minimum requirements related to work experience, GPA, and GRE scores, the applicant may be asked to participate in an on-campus interview with the faculty. In addition, the faculty may request that the applicant provide a writing sample. The final application is assessed using many criteria including, but not limited to, GPA, GRE scores, publications, presentations, level of administrative experience, honors, relevance of degree to personal goals, and interview. Priority admission application deadlines: January 1st for Fall Semester admission entrance. October 1st for Spring Semester admission entrance.

CORE COURSES:

RESEARCH COMPONENT – 21 hours
EDRS 700 Models of Inquiry and Literature Review
EDRS 701 Educational Statistics II
EDRS 704 Foundations of Qualitative Methodology
EDRS 705 Educational Research II
Three (3) courses chosen in consultation with advisor:

HIGHER EDUCATION CORE – 12 Hours
Students must complete EDHE 701 (3 hours) and 9 hours of additional core courses:
EDHE 701 Doctoral Studies Proseminar (1st or 2nd semester of enrollment)
EDHE 759 Finance of Higher Education
EDHE 780 History of Higher Education
EDHE 762 College Teaching
EDHE 764 Law of Higher Education
EDHE 760 Advanced Educational Policy Analysis
EDHE 721 Recent Developments in Educational Practice
EDLD 730 Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives on Leadership

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION – 21 Hours
Courses to be selected in consultation with your advisor in the development of an area of specialization to support the dissertation study. Courses may be selected from the Department of Higher Education and other programs in the School of Education and the University. At least twelve hours must be selected from the Department of Higher Education.

DISSERTATION – 18 Hours
EDHE 797. 18 semester hours after comprehensive exam

Comprehensive Examination: During the last semester of course work, or the next available comprehensive exam offering, the student must sit for a comprehensive examination

For Further Information:
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1. Students who have completed a master’s degree from our department or a similar master’s degree are not required to repeat a core course (with permission of their advisor), but they must substitute another course in consultation with their advisor.

2. Courses taken to satisfy the Research Component, Higher Education Core, or Area of Specialization may be counted only once in fulfilling degree requirements.

3. Students are permitted to transfer up to 12 credit hours of coursework. Note: transfer of credit is not intended for students entering the program with a single master’s degree.

4. In the case of a joint degree program, the faculty can waive the requirement of a master’s degree for a student to enroll.