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:** Master’s degree and, at the time of application consideration, at least 3 years full-time employment experience at a college or university beyond receipt of a master’s degree, or relevant experience. The faculty, at its discretion, may consider work as a full-time employee while pursuing a master’s degree, but generally not include work in a graduate assistantship position. 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 1 for Fall Semester admission entrance. October 1 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 12 hours of Higher Education core courses selected from among the following courses:
- 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.