Doctor of Philosophy in Adult & Higher Education

Objectives
Program faculty research foci include student development and student affairs, institutional research and assessment, scholarship of teaching and learning, faculty roles and responsibilities, K-20 student educational trajectory and higher education outcomes, particularly for students placed at risk, comparative and international higher education, and administration and leadership in higher education. In most cases the diversity of learners and institutions represented in adult and higher education is addressed, and students are encouraged to develop specialization via course assignments. Required courses vary by degree and background of the student.

Coursework is divided into two categories: required and electives, and research and statistics. Doctoral students must conduct research and write an original theory-based dissertation. Courses are offered with working students as a target group and are generally offered evenings and weekends. Many courses are offered as hybrid courses with a combination of face-to-face and distance delivery.

Program Flow
After being admitted to the PhD program, the student will be assigned a temporary adviser and should then meet with his/her assigned adviser. Actual courses taken during the initial stage will be based on the student’s previous academic work and adviser/committee approval.

The program is designed to be specifically tailored to each doctoral student’s related research interest while providing cutting edge knowledge and skills in research and theory. The program is structured to be completed in 4 to 5 years with full-time tuition support for qualified students provided by the Department of Education.

Program of Study

Core Content - choose 9 credits
- EDLD 505
- EDCI 508
- EDLD 530
- EDLD 610 Leadership and Organizational Thry
- EDLD 643 Leading Social Justice

Required Core Content Courses - 4 credits
- EDCI 594
- EDU 670

Adult & Higher Education Concentration - 15 credits
Required and Electives appropriate to area of specialization (Higher education Administration and Higher Education Academics).

Required Research Courses - 9 credits
- EDCI 502
- EDCI 507
- EDCI 607

Advanced Research Electives - choose 9 credits
- EDLD 511
- EDCI 513
- EDLD 537
- EDU 606

Doctoral Thesis - 18 credits
- EDLD 690

Electives also may be taken that are appropriate to the research area of specialization and approved by the graduate advisor.

Dissertation - 18 credits
- EDLD 690

Total Credits

Residency Requirement
The PhD requires one year of full-time residency. The residency requirement consists of two consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment (9 credits per semester) in PhD coursework.

Committees
Each doctoral student’s committee must consist of at least five approved members. The chair and one other approved member must be from the Curriculum & Instruction faculty. Two other approved members will be selected based upon their ability to contribute to the student’s studies leading up to and through the dissertation research. These two committee members must have academic credentials in the area of the student’s program of study and be approved by the Dean of The Graduate School. A fifth member of the committee is an approved faculty member appointed by The Graduate School and serves as the graduate representative.

Chairs
The student should carefully select his/her chair after thorough conversations with those Curriculum & Instruction faculty members that he/she believes might have an interest in their doctoral research agenda and/or the ability to work with them toward generating a defensible dissertation. The chair will give leadership and approval regarding the balance of the committee’s potential membership. The committee, as a whole, is subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Education. The chair will facilitate program approval, comprehensive exam planning and clarification, proposal hearing, and dissertation defense. Chairs and members of a student’s committee are subject to change. Revision to the program of study can be made during the course of study with the chair’s approval.

Comprehensive Examinations
At PhD students in Adult & Higher Education approach the end of their coursework (46 credits completed), and prior to the Dissertation proposal meeting, they will contact their committee chair to discuss the content and format of the written and oral comprehensive examinations. Options for meeting the requirements of the comprehensive exam are available on the Department of Education website: http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ahe/ahe_phd.html. The comprehensive exams must be completed by the posted Graduate School deadlines.

Additional Requirements
The Doctor of Education degree must meet the minimum requirements in the For Doctoral Students section of the Graduate School’s website. Additional requirements for the PhD degree beyond these minimums are available through the Department of Education. All PhD degree candidates are expected to be familiar with both The Graduate School’s degree requirements are listed here: http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/
Department degree requirements are listed on the department website.

**How to Apply**

Application requirements can be accessed through the Department of Education’s Doctor of Philosophy in Adult & Higher Education Application Process (http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ahe/applications.html) web page.

Apply online through The Graduate School (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html).

**Contact Information**

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