Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Curriculum & Instruction

Objectives
The PhD in Education is designed for graduate students seeking faculty or research positions in higher education or positions within research organizations that require educational research in highly specialized disciplines. Progress through the degree provides students with opportunities to develop specialized disciplinary content and research knowledge along with scholarly experiences that will provide the foundational knowledge and skills required for success as faculty in higher education and in research organizations.

The PhD in Education, with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction, will prepare students to develop knowledge and conduct research related to six major areas of strength among our existing faculty including: (1) Leadership and Policy Analysis, (2) STEM Education, (3) the K-20 Trajectory, (4) Online and Distance Education Delivery, (5) Pedagogy and Teacher Preparation, and (6) Education Evaluation, Assessment, Research Design and Analysis. Special emphasis in these major research areas will address topics specific to Montana including working with rural communities and Native Americans on state and other educational issues. Graduates of this PhD program in education will be well-positioned to directly and positively affect the data driven culture related to improving the educational systems of Montana and beyond.

Program Flow
After being admitted to the PhD program, the student will be assigned a temporary advisor and should then meet with his/her assigned advisor. Actual courses taken during the initial stage will be based on the student's previous academic work and advisor/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 required for research and theory.

Program of Study
Core Content - 13 credits
- EDU 600 Doctoral Seminar
- EDU 650 Dissertation Seminar

Required Content Courses - 4 credits
- EDLD 635 College Teaching

Or approved substitutions

Choose: 9 credits from the following:
- EDLD 605 Higher Education History and Philosophy
- EDLD 643 Leading Social Justice
- EDLD 610 Leadership and Organizational Theory
- EDLD 635 College Teaching
- EDCI 604 Advanced Educational Psychology

Or approved substitutions

Curriculum & Instruction Concentration Options - 15 credits
Electives appropriate to area of specialization (Curriculum Design; English Language Arts Education; Social Studies Education; Science Education) & approved by Graduate Advisor.

Required Research Courses - 18 credits

Advanced Research Electives - choose 9 credits
- EDU 606 Mixed Methods Research Design in Education
- EDU 611 Advanced Qualitative Research
- EDU 608 Advanced Quantitative Research
- EDU 612 Critical Race Theory
- EDU 613 Indigenous Methodologies in Educational Research
- EDU 637 Institutional Research and Assessment
- EDU 614 Planning Program Assessment

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

Dissertation - 18 credits
- EDCI 690 Doctoral Thesis

Total Credits

Residency Requirement
The PhD requires one year of on campus full-time residency. The residency requirement consists of two consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment (6-9 credits per semester) in PhD coursework.

Committees
Each doctoral student's committee must consist of at least four 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 Head of the Department of Education and Dean of The Graduate School. For information regarding graduate representatives, please refer to the Graduate School policy.

Chairs
The student should carefully select a chair after thorough conversations with those Curriculum & Instruction faculty members that he/she believes might have an interest in his/her doctoral research agenda and/or the ability to work with him/her 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
As PhD students in Curriculum & Instruction 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 required written and oral comprehensive
examinations. The comprehensive exams must be completed by the posted Graduate School deadlines.

**Additional Requirements**

The PhD 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 listed here: [http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html) and the Department of Education degree requirements listed on the department website.

**How to Apply**

Application requirements can be accessed through the Department of Education’s Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum & Instruction Application Process ([http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ci/applications.html](http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ci/applications.html)) web page. Apply online through The Graduate School ([http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html)).

**Contact Information**

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**Application Process for the PhD in Education, Curriculum & Instruction**

Applicants are required to complete the online application and submit the following documentation via the Graduate School Online Application System ([http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/apply.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/apply.html))

1. **Completed Graduate School Application**
2. **GPA calculation sheet** (The form is provided during the application process)
3. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae**
4. **Documentation of verbal and quantitative skills needed for the degree:** Submit official GRE (minimum Verbal 155, Quantitative 150) sent from the testing agency to Montana State University (code 4488).
5. **Academic Transcripts:** Applicants must provide *Official* transcripts verifying all Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree coursework. *Unofficial transcripts may be uploaded during the online application process. Official transcripts must be sent from the Institution directly to the Department of Education Graduate Programs Office, 215 Reid Hall, PO Box 172880, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717. Electronic transcripts are also acceptable as long as they arrive directly from the applicants’ certifying university. Please have electronic transcripts sent to edgrad@montana.edu. Transcripts will be evaluated for rigor and academic fit.
6. **Personal Essay:** Suggested length is 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages. The applicant should briefly describe the following:
   - Professional goals
   - Knowledge in chosen field
   - Motivation and perseverance toward goals
   - Ability to work independently
   - Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing
   - Ability/potential for college teaching
   - Ability to plan and conduct research

7. **Three (3) Professional References:** The letters should be from individuals qualified to assess the following:
   - Knowledge in chosen field
   - Motivation and perseverance toward goals
   - Ability to work independently
   - Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing
   - Ability/potential for college teaching
   - Ability to plan and conduct research

8. **For International Applicants ONLY:** In addition to the above, International applicants will be required to submit the following:
   - English proficiency scores: TOEFL [80], IELTS [level 6.5], or PTE [54], are necessary for applicants who are not U.S. citizens and not from countries where English is the official language. This requirement is waived if the applicant has earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution in the U.S. For more information on the International application process, see this link: [http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/admissions_intl.html](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/admissions_intl.html)
   - Proof of funds (if self-funded)
   - Copy of applicant’s passport
   - Degree certificates as well as an English translation for all non-English academic transcripts and credentials. Photocopies can be used to initiate the application process; however, official transcripts/credentials are still required upon admission.

   *Note: Applicants may be contacted for an interview by the program specific applicant review committee.*

**Application Deadlines**

Below is the deadline by which all of the application materials for the PhD in Education must be submitted via the online application system. Students matriculate into the PhD program in the fall semester only. Applications to the PhD programs are reviewed once per year at the April 1st deadline. Applications received after the deadline may be reviewed for acceptance on a case-by-case basis.

- **Fall Semester:** April 1st

**Admission Process**

Complete applications will be reviewed by members of the Graduate Admissions Committee who then convene to make final admission decisions. Once a decision has been made the application will be forwarded to The Graduate School for final administrative processing. Please note that the application review process will begin on the application deadline dates and not before.

**Contact Information**

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Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leefrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.