

Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Curriculum & Instruction

Program Objectives

The Doctor of **Philosophy in Education (PhD)**, with emphasis in **Curriculum and Instruction degree** is designed to prepare graduate students to conduct 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 program addresses 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 in research and theory.

Program of Study

Core Content (15 Credit Hours)

Required Core Content Courses (6 Credit Hours) 6

EDU 600	Doctoral Seminar
EDU 650	Dissertation Seminar

Or approved substitutions

Choose: (9 Credit Hours from the following) 9

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 Credit Hours) 15

Electives appropriate to area of specialization (Curriculum Design; English Language Arts Education; Social Studies Education; Science Education) and approved by Graduate Advisor.

Required Research Courses (18 Credit Hours)

Required (9 Credit Hours) 9

EDU 602	Educational Statistics II
EDU 607	Quantitative Educational Research
EDU 610	Qualitative Educational Research

Advanced Research Electives (Choose 9 Credit Hours) 9

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 Credit Hours) 18

EDU 690	Doctoral Thesis
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Total Credits 66

Residency Requirement

The PhD requires one year of on campus full-time residency. The residency requirement consists of two consecutive semesters (fall and spring) 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. Students should refer to the Graduate School's web page at: <http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/>

degreq_doctoral.html and the Department of Education Graduate Handbook at <https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/handbook/index.html> (<https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/handbook/>) for more detailed information on comprehensive exams.

Mode of Course Delivery

Doctoral level courses are offered in a variety of modalities including face-to-face in-person courses, synchronous and asynchronous online learning, and a combination of both.

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 and the Department of Education degree requirements listed on the department website.

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 (<https://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/howtoapply.html>). Prior to applying to the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program applicants must hold a Master's degree.

1. Completed Graduate School Application

2. Academic Transcripts: Applicants must provide *official* transcripts verifying *all* Bachelors degree and Masters coursework (as well as confirmation of bachelor's and master's degree earned) from the applicant's certifying university. *Unofficial transcripts* may be uploaded during the application process. *Official* electronic transcripts may be emailed directly from the Institution to gradschool@montana.edu or edgrad@montana.edu

Transcripts may also be mailed to the Department of Education Graduate Programs Office, 215 Reid Hall, PO Box 172880, Montana State University, 59717. Transcripts from a degree awarded through MSU do not need to be provided. **NOTE:** We require an undergraduate and graduate GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Transcripts will be evaluated for rigor and academic fit.

3. Personal Essay: Suggested length is 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages. The applicant should briefly describe the following

- Education and other educational professional experiences
- Research interests and experience including alignment with faculty interests and expertise and an example of research experiences using educational theory, research methods, and application
- Professional goals

4. Research and Data Analysis Skills Summary: You will be asked to upload a separate document (less than one page) addressing the following

- Describe your research experience skills
- Summarize your experiences using different research methods
- List scholarly products such as peer-reviewed conference publications and peer-reviewed publications
- Describe data analysis skills and experience using different data analysis software (i.e., SPSS, ENVIVO, SAS)

5. Writing Sample: Please upload a selected example of writing that demonstrates academic potential such as an artifact that highlights your interest, strengths, context and goals/desires more conducive to holistic review.

6. Resume/Curriculum Vitae

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: Please visit the Graduate School International Application Admissions (https://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/international_admissions.html) website for application submission information.

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

Application Deadline

Below is the deadline by which all 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

* An early review deadline of February 1st has been set for those applicants wanting to be considered for Graduate Assistantships. Applications must be complete for an early review. A student must be accepted to an education program before requesting a Department of Education Graduate Assistantship. Graduate Assistantships require students to work on campus 19 hours per week. For further information regarding teaching assistantships visit webpage: <https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ga/index.html> (<https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/ga/>).

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 date and not before.

We strongly suggest that doctoral applicants contact faculty with whom their planned research would align. This will assist us in identifying an appropriate advisor for program applicants and provide us an opportunity to get to know you. E-mail addresses of our professors are listed on the Faculty and Staff Directory: <https://www.montana.edu/education/directory/index.html> (<https://www.montana.edu/education/directory/>)

Contact Information

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