EDUCATION (PH.D.)

https://cola.unh.edu/education/program/phd/education

Description

The program of Education offers a Ph.D. in education with specialization in fields related to the areas of:

1. children and youth in communities;
2. curriculum and instruction/teacher education;
3. experiential/outdoor education;
4. leadership and policy studies

The doctoral program is designed to engender a broad understanding of the field of education by encouraging focused scholarly inquiry grounded in the reality of educational practice across varied formal and informal settings. Professors and students work to place educational issues in philosophical, socio-cultural, and policy-related contexts. The program enrolls full-time and part-time students.

An individual program of study is planned by the student and her or his guidance committee. Each student’s program includes a set of common core courses, specialized study, a number of selected electives from across areas of inquiry, and required research preparation. Students must meet specific University, department, and program requirements. Within this framework, individual programs can vary widely from student to student depending upon the student’s own interests and goals.

The Ph.D. in education provides students with preparation for research, teaching, and leadership in a variety of settings. Graduates hold positions at all levels of schooling, from colleges and universities to K-12 schools. Former students are also involved in work as policy makers, community agency directors, consultants, and research analysts.

Program information: Contact the Education Department by phone: (603) 862-2310 or email: education.department@unh.edu

Admission

Students admitted to the program must have completed a master’s degree in education or a related field. Entering students are generally expected to have some experience working in areas related to education, broadly conceptualized. To apply, candidates must submit a Graduate School application and transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework.

In addition to the personal statement required on the Graduate School application and transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework, candidates must submit an essay on an educational issue. This essay should discuss one issue in the field of education that is of interest to the candidate. It should explore the opportunities and challenges this issue poses and explain why the applicant finds it personally compelling (1,000 to 1,500 words in length).

Prior to completing and submitting the application, it is highly recommended that the candidate contact the Director of the Division of Educational Studies, who directs the Ph.D. in Education program, to arrange a phone, skype, or on-campus appointment to discuss their interests and fit with current research of faculty in the Education Department. Contact the Education Department by phone: (603) 862-2310 or email: education.department@unh.edu

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Candidates for the degree must meet admission requirements, develop and complete an approved program of study in consultation with their guidance committee, complete required coursework, undergo an annual assessment review by the Doctoral Advisory Committee, develop and submit a passing qualifying paper, establish a dissertation committee, develop an approved dissertation proposal to advance to candidacy, write and present the dissertation, and pass the final oral examination.

Program of Studies

Upon acceptance to the program, students are assigned an adviser. During the first year of study, students identify, either in consultation with their adviser or with the director of doctoral studies, faculty members to serve as their guidance committee. Programs for the doctoral degree in education are planned individually by students and their guidance committees. The program of study consists of four major elements: common core courses, specialization specific to the student’s scholarly interests, a number of selected electives from across areas of inquiry, and research preparation, including specific advanced research modules.

Students typically complete 52 to 64 hours in graduate coursework following their matriculation. These hours do not include (EDUC 999 Doctoral Research).

At least five of the below core courses are required of all students:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 902</td>
<td>Doctoral Pro-seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 904</td>
<td>Qualitative Inquiry in Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 905</td>
<td>Critical Inquiry in Education</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 906</td>
<td>The Literature Review in Educational Research: Interdisciplinary Perspectives</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 981</td>
<td>Quantitative Inquiry Methods and Techniques of Educational Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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Pre-requisites for EDUC 981:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 881</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics: Inquiry, Analysis, and Decision Making</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 978</td>
<td>Applied Regression Analysis in Educational Research</td>
<td>4</td>
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Specialization Areas and Requirements:

Children and Youth in Communities

Childhood Focus required courses:

- HDFS 930 Child Development in Context
- EDUC #948 Leadership and Advocacy in Early Childhood Education
- EDUC 950 Understanding Culture in Research on Learning and Development
- RMP 970 Teaching Practicum

Adolescent Focus required courses:

- EDUC 950 Understanding Culture in Research on Learning and Development
- HDFS #950 Contemporary Issues in Adolescent Development
- RMP 970 Teaching Practicum

Curriculum and Instruction/Teacher Education

Select five courses from the following:

- EDUC 950 Understanding Culture in Research on Learning and Development
- EDUC 958 Analysis of Teaching and Learning
- EDUC 959 Issues in Education
- EDUC 960 Curriculum Development
- EDUC 966 Philosophy of Education
- EDUC 991 Curriculum Theory I
- EDUC #992 Curriculum Theory II

Experiential/Outdoor Education

Select five courses from the following:

- EDUC 995 Experiential Outdoor Education
- EDUC 996 Outdoor Education in Practice
- EDUC 997 Leadership and Advocacy in Outdoor Education
- EDUC 998 Research in Outdoor Education
- EDUC 999 Doctoral Research
EDUC 986 Philosophy of Education
KIN 882 Therapeutic Applications of Adventure Programming
KIN 883 Psych Factors of Adventure Ed
KIN 884 Historical Foundations of Outdoor Experiential Education
KIN 885 Program Models and Evaluation in Outdoor Education
KIN 886 Organization and Administration of Outdoor Education Programs
KIN 895 Advanced Studies
KIN 897 Advanced Topics in Outdoor Education

Leadership and Policy Studies
EDUC 964 Human Resources in Education

P-12 Focus required courses:
EDUC 973 Policy, Politics, and Planning in Education
EDUC 977 Leadership: The District Level Administrator

Higher Education Focus required courses:
EDUC 970 Foundations for Leadership in Higher Education
EDUC 976 Policy and Governance in Higher Education

Select a minimum of eight credits of elective coursework from the following:
EDUC 897 Special Topics in Education (Topics: Students, the Law & Higher Education, and Faculty & Higher Education Law)
EDUC 959 Issues in Education
EDUC 962 Educational Finance and Business Management
EDUC 967 School Law
EDUC 968 Collective Bargaining in Public Education
EDUC 995 Independent Study (School Facilities)

Additional required electives chosen in consultation with student’s Guidance Committee. Students complete a minimum of five courses (20 credits) within, or directly related to, their chosen area of inquiry.

Integrative Coursework
Select two advanced inquiry education courses (e.g., EDUC 979 Applied Multilevel Modeling), courses in a different specialization, or courses taken in another department (e.g., psychology, sociology, economics, family studies).

Qualifying Paper
As a step toward Ph.D. candidacy, students must satisfactorily complete a qualifying paper as well as all other program requirements. After completing most of their coursework, and under advice of the student’s guidance committee, students may formally undertake the qualifying paper. The student formally proposes a qualifying paper concept to the guidance committee and undertakes writing the paper once the proposal is approved. The paper is evaluated by the student’s guidance committee. The qualifying paper is used to evaluate the student’s general knowledge in relevant areas of inquiry, and their fitness for engaging in research, particularly in the subject proposed for the dissertation.

Dissertation
To complete the degree, the student must present and defend a dissertation of original research and publishable quality.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate general knowledge of the field of educational research, including types of research questions and methods of inquiry used in the field.
- Students will learn to critique and design qualitative and quantitative educational research, and they will be able to identify and craft good argumentation in educational scholarship.
- Students will demonstrate expertise in at least one form of data analysis or a non-empirical form of inquiry (e.g., historical, philosophical, literary).
- Students will gain expertise in one or more substantive areas of inquiry in educational research.