

# EDUCATION (PH.D.)

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

## Description

The Ph.D. in Education offers specializations in fields related to the areas of:

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

The Ph.D. program is designed to engender a broad understanding of the field of education by encouraging focused scholarly inquiry grounded in the realities of formal and informal settings for learning. Professors and students work to examine educational issues from philosophical, socio-cultural, and policy-related perspectives. The program enrolls full- and part-time students.

An individualized program of study is planned by the student and their guidance committee. Each 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 of study 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](mailto:education.department@unh.edu). ([education.department@unh.edu](mailto: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, 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 and that illustrates the applicant's early ideas about an area of focus. The essay 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, candidates are welcome to contact the Director Graduate Programs in Educational Studies, who directs the Ph.D. in Education program, to arrange a conversation 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](mailto:education.department@unh.edu). ([education.department@unh.edu](mailto: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.

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

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Common Core Courses</b>		
EDUC 902	Doctoral Pro-seminar	4
EDUC 904	Qualitative Inquiry in Research	4
EDUC 905	Critical Inquiry in Education	4
EDUC 906	The Literature Review in Educational Research: Interdisciplinary Perspectives	4
EDUC 981	Quantitative Inquiry: Methods and Techniques of Educational Research (Prerequisites: EDUC 881, EDUC 978)	4
<b>Specialization Areas and Requirements</b>		
Five courses required in specialization areas		20
<i>Children and Youth in Communities</i>		
Childhood Focus required courses: <sup>1</sup>		
HDFS 930	Play Therapy	
RMP 970	Teaching Practicum	
Adolescent Focus required courses: <sup>1</sup>		
RMP 970	Teaching Practicum	
<i>Curriculum and Instruction/Teacher Education</i>		
Select five courses from the following:		
EDUC 958	Analysis of Teaching and Learning	
EDUC 959	Issues in Education	
EDUC 960	Curriculum Development	
EDUC 986	Philosophy of Education	
EDUC 991	Curriculum Theory I	
<i>Leadership and Policy Studies</i>		
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	
<b>Electives</b>		
Select a minimum of eight credits of elective coursework from the following:		8
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)	

<sup>1</sup> 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

### Program 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.