

PhD in Policy Studies in Urban Education

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. Applicants must submit transcripts from the last 60 hours of undergraduate work and from all postbaccalaureate work. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions.
- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00 for the final 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate study and for all postbaccalaureate coursework.
- **Tests Required** None.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
 - **TOEFL iBT** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (**Note:** Total score is higher than the sum of the subscores), **OR**,
 - **IELTS Academic** 6.5, with 6.0 in each of the four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three letters from faculty members or others familiar with the applicant's previous academic training, academic and research ability, and experience.
- **Personal Statement** This required statement must address the applicant's professional and scholarly goals.
- **Deadlines** [Application deadlines](#) for this program are listed on the Graduate College website.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required**
 - *Educational Leadership and Policy Concentration:* 100 semester hours from the baccalaureate degree, 68 from the master's degree.
 - *Social Foundations of Education Concentration:* 100 semester hours from the baccalaureate degree, 68 from the master's degree.
- **Coursework**
 - *Required Course Hours*
 - *Educational Leadership and Policy Concentration*—Minimum beyond the master's: 32 semester hours in required courses, 12 in required concentration-specific courses, 12 in elective courses.
 - *Social Foundations of Education Concentration*—Minimum beyond the master's: 32 semester hours in required courses, 16 in required and selective concentration-specific courses, 8 in elective courses.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
College Doctoral Core (12 semester hours)		
ED 504	Urban Contexts and Educational Research	

ED 505	Introduction to Educational Research: Paradigms and Processes
ED 506	Introduction to Educational Research: Designs and Analyses

Research Methodology (12 semester hours)

ED 502	Essentials of Qualitative Inquiry in Education
ED 503	Essentials of Quantitative Inquiry in Education

One additional 4-semester-hour course in qualitative or quantitative research methodology (must be approved by the faculty advisor).

Concentrations

Select from the following areas of concentration:

Educational Leadership and Policy
Social Foundations of Education

Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP) Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Required ELP Concentration-Specific Courses (8 hours)		
EDPS 506	Leadership, Instruction, and Policy in Education	
EDPS 585	Research Practicum in Educational Leadership	

Students who lack research and writing experience through a graduate assistantship will be required to complete EDPS 592 and work closely with a faculty advisor to gain those skills. Hours of EDPS 592 will not count toward the minimum 68-semester-hour requirement for the degree.

ELP Concentration Selective Courses (12 hours)

Select three courses from the following list of five courses in consultation with the advisor:

EDPS 550	Improving Education Organizations
EDPS 568	Education and the Law
EDPS 571	The Education Policy Process
EDPS 579	Organization Theory in Education
EDPS 589	Administrative and Leadership Theory in Education

ELP Concentration Elective Courses (12 hours)

Each student will support the concentration-specific courses with 12 semester hours of elective courses, selected with the faculty advisor. Elective courses should be chosen to meet one or more of three criteria: (1) expand breadth of study; (2) deepen depth of study; (3) enrich study of research methodology.

Social Foundations of Education Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
Required Concentration-Specific Courses (16 semester hours)		
EDPS 505	Social Theory in Educational Foundations	

Select three of the following (12 hours) :

EDPS 500	City Schools: Education in the Urban Environment
EDPS 502	Advanced Foundational Studies in Philosophy of Education
EDPS 503	History and Historiography in Education
EDPS 543	The Criminalization of Youth in Urban Schools
EDPS 555	Political Economy of Urban Education
EDPS 563	Politics of Gender, Sexuality, and Education
EDPS 565	Globalization and Education
EDPS 566	Cultural Studies in Education
EDPS 567	Economics of Education
EDPS 570	Historical and Philosophical Analysis of Education Policy
EDPS 571	The Education Policy Process
EDPS 572	Sociology of Education
EDPS 582	Cultural Pluralism and Education Policy
EDPS 583	Women in Education
EDPS 588	Critical Race Theory: Race and Racism in Education
EDPS 594	Special Topics in Educational Policy

Electives

Each student will support the concentration-specific courses with 8 semester hours of elective courses, selected with the faculty advisor. Elective courses should be chosen to meet one or more of three criteria: (1) expand breadth of study; (2) deepen depth of study; (3) enrich study of research methodology.

Other Requirements

Students will select 8 hours of courses in consultation with the faculty advisor.

Other Requirements

• Examinations

- *Comprehensive Written Qualifying Examination:* Required. Successful completion of the comprehensive exam qualifies students to enter the dissertation proposal stage of the program. The examination focuses on program curriculum, the student's area of concentration, and research methods. No student with a cumulative GPA below 3.00/4.00 will be permitted to take the qualifying examination. Students who fail to pass all components after the second attempt will be recommended by the program faculty to the Graduate College for dismissal from the program.

- *Preliminary Examination:* Required. The preliminary examination is taken at the completion of all course work. The examination is primarily oral but may contain a written component. The primary purpose of the preliminary examination is review and approval of the dissertation proposal and admission of the student to degree candidacy.

- **Dissertation** Required. Students must earn at least 12 semester hours in EDPS 599.

- **Other Requirements** All students must complete a training course sponsored by the Office for the Vice Chancellor for Research on the ethics of conducting research with human subjects. Students

are required to submit an annual report of their academic and professional progress.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)
- [Violence Studies](#)