



Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction

Program Description

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum and Instruction degree provides a theoretical and practical course of study in curriculum and instruction. The program is designed for teachers, curriculum coordinators, college instructors, corporate and agency curriculum planners, academics, and other professional educators. The program enables students to develop a theoretical and conceptual framework for studying teaching and learning, and also encourages professional educators to develop knowledge and practice in their own fields of specialization. The Ph.D. degree requires 66 credits and culminates in a dissertation, focused on an area of investigation that interests the doctoral candidate and benefits the profession. Doctoral candidates have opportunities to participate with faculty on research, in teaching, and in professional activities, including publishing and conference presentations. A 3.0 GPA or better must be maintained, with nothing lower than a C earned in all coursework, throughout the program. A student can take no more than 17 credits in this program as a non-degree student before being officially admitted; those credits are subject to approval by a program advisor.

Core Courses: 15 credits

Take all of the following courses (preferably in this order, but only 1 per semester):

- EDG 7938 Foundations of Curriculum Inquiry (Take this course in the first or second semester of your program)
- EDF 7758 Trends in Analyzing Instructional Practices
- EDF 7917 Instructional Policies and the Teaching Profession
- EDG 7221 Curriculum Theory
- EDG 7944 Research in Curriculum and Instruction (*Take this course after EDF 7758 and at the end of the program, before/during the semester of Qualifying Examination*)

Core Courses may not be substituted for or taken as independent studies except under extreme circumstances.

Initial Research Courses: 6 credits

Take these courses early in the program (preferably in this order).

- STA 7114 Advanced Educational Statistics (*Dept. of Educational Leadership & Research Methodology; This course requires a pre-requisite of STA 6113 - Initial Research, unless the student has taken an equivalent course in a previous graduate degree program*)
- EDA 6415 Introduction to Qualitative Analysis (*Dept. of Educational Leadership & Research Methodology*)

Area of Specialization Electives: 21 credits at the 6000 level or above

These courses are chosen after speaking with the Program Advisor. Please see "Possible Program Electives" on the program website - <https://www.fau.edu/education/academicdepartments/curriculum->

[instruction/academic-programs/graduate/doctorate-curriculum-instruction/docs/areaofspecialization.pdf](https://www.fau.edu/education/academicdepartments/curriculum-instruction/academic-programs/graduate/doctorate-curriculum-instruction/docs/areaofspecialization.pdf) (You are not limited to this list.)

Advanced Research Courses: 9 credits

- EDF 7578 Critical Foundations to Educational Inquiry (For those admitted after Spring 2015) (*This course requires a pre-requisite of EDF 6415- Intro to qualitative and STA 6113- Initial Research course*)
- EDA 7416 Advanced Qualitative Inquiry (*Dept. of Educational Leadership & Research Methodology*)
- EDF 7482 Advanced Educational Research (*Dept. of Educational Leadership & Research Methodology*) (*Take this course before or during the semester of the Qualifying Examination; At the discretion of the student's doctoral advisor/chair, this course may be substituted by EDF 7932, a directed independent study, or a 7000 level course that covers similar methodological objectives*)

Qualifying Examination

The date of the Qualifying Examination is arranged with your Dissertation Chair upon completion of coursework, or in the same semester as the student completes the coursework.

Dissertation: 15 credits

Dissertation credits are taken after the student has passed the Qualifying Examination, and has an approved Dissertation Proposal.

EDG 7980 Dissertation

A minimum of 72 credits post baccalaureate is needed for the completion of the Ph.D. Program. Students may bring up to 6 credits from their Master's Degree into the Ph.D. program to meet this requirement.

Admission Requirements

Doctoral candidates are admitted during fall semesters only. Applications are due **February 1st** for program initiation in the fall term. Admission to the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction requires submission of the graduate application form at <https://www.fau.edu/graduate/applyonline/>. You will find information about the application process at <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/>.

For questions regarding your application status or general inquiries, please call the Graduate College Office at (561) 297-3624, the office for Academic and Student Services at the College of Education (561) 297-3570, or send an email to graduatecollege@fau.edu. For more information on the program, please contact the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at (561) 297-6594. The department website is: <https://www.fau.edu/education/academicdepartments/curriculum-instruction/academic-programs/graduate/doctorate-curriculum-instruction/>

To be admitted, a student must meet the following requirements AND must submit all documentation to the Graduate College online application portal, upon which departmental approval will be contingent:

1. Send in official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework to the Graduate College at FAU indicating the courses taken and noting completion of a bachelor's and a master's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited college or university.

2. Have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or better in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work and a GPA of 3.25 or better in a completed master's degree program. Students may apply to the program with a GPA of less than 3.00 (undergraduate) or 3.25 (graduate) but they must address the score in their professional statement.
 3. Provide two letters of recommendation from supervisors and/or professors. Preference is given to recommendation letters which speak to a candidate's (a) academic research ability, (b) potential for doctoral studies, (c) ability to write, and (d) preparation for rigor of doctoral program.
 4. A professional statement describing career goals, research interests, reasons for wanting to enter the C&I program, and identifying potential faculty members in the department with whom the student would like to work. Students with lower than stipulated GPA scores or areas of weakness in their undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts must also address this information in their professional statement.
 5. A curriculum vitae (CV) or resume.
 6. Upon successful submission and referral of the application to the department, the department will invite applicants to engage in a pre-interview writing task to support their deliberation of the application. Selected applicants will then be invited to an interview with department faculty. Applicants will be asked to complete a 45- minute writing task after the interview.
 7. Additional requirements for international students may apply. Please refer to the FAU Graduate College for more information email: graduatecollege@fau.edu
- **If you have any further questions about the program or coursework, please contact the office manager, Jodi Cantor at 561-297-6594 or the doctoral coordinator, Sabrina Sembiante, Ph.D. at ssembiante@fau.edu**

Upon notification of admission, the candidate must contact the assigned Program Advisor to design a preliminary plan for their coursework. The Program Advisor explains the process of the doctoral program, states our expectations for doctoral students, answers questions about the curriculum, and discusses the student's prior experiences, current interests, and future plans.

The electronic Plan of Study must be completed at the midpoint of the coursework. Students eligible for Graduate Assistantships will need to complete a Plan of Study within their first two semesters of coursework. All doctoral work must be completed within 10 years of date of admission. During the entire Ph.D. process, students are required to enroll for at least 1 credit during at least 2 semesters (fall, spring, or summer) of every academic year, in order to remain eligible for the degree.

A maximum of 17 semester hours of graduate credit earned from Florida Atlantic University in a non-degree-seeking status and a maximum of 6 semester hours of graduate credit earned from another university may be transferred into the program, subject to approval by the Program Advisor.

All College of Education Programs are approved by the Florida Department of Education and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) previously NCATE. Please keep and consult the Florida Atlantic University catalog from the semester that you were admitted to the program, for more details regarding your program.