Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

The Ph.D. program prepares students to engage in educational research around issues of leadership, policy, and social justice. Students will consider critical topics in education, develop a broad and inclusive view of the kinds of issues facing educational leaders and policymakers, and develop expertise in analytical/research practices associated with topics in educational leadership and policy. The program of study is flexible, allowing for students to create their own individualized learning trajectories to be prepared for positions in academia, research, and public policy.

The 66-credit plan of study requires core courses in educational leadership, research methods, focus areas, and dissertation research. Students will create their individualized plans of study in consultation with their advisors.

**Educational Leadership Core (18 credits):** Students are required to take a minimum of 18 credits in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

- EDST 60000 – Doctoral Seminar in the Foundations of Education (6 credits)
- EDST 59100 – Special Topics in Education (can be taken for up to 9 credits)
- EDST 51200 – Foundations of Educational Policy
- EDST 59100 – Educational Policymaking and Social Justice

**Research Methods (15 credits):** Students are required to take EDPS 53300, two qualitative courses, and two quantitative courses. An additional qualitative OR quantitative course is required if students transfer in EDPS 53300, and is highly recommended for all students.

- EDPS 53300 – Intro to Educational Research I: Methodology*
- EDST – Quantitative Research Methods I** (new course awaiting course number)
- EDST – Quantitative Research Methods II** (new course awaiting course number)
- EDCI 61500 – Qualitative Research I
- EDCI 61600 – Qualitative Research II

**Primary Area Specialization (12 credits):** Students will take a minimum of 12 credits in a focus area that enhances their studies of educational leadership and policy. Focus areas can be discipline-specific (e.g., sociology, economics, political science) or topic-specific (coursework on poverty or early childhood). Students should consult with their advisor when selecting a focus area.
**Ph.D. Core Competencies:** Students are expected to demonstrate competency in teaching and research that prepares them for positions in academia, policy, and research; these may be fulfilled through graduate assistantships, practicum/research credits, or unpaid internships.

- Competency in teaching includes serving as a TA, co-teaching a course, or teaching a course.
- Competency in research includes participating on a research team, presenting a poster or paper at an academic conference, and creating a CV.

**Thesis/Doctoral Research Credits (18 credits):**

- EDPS 63000 – Research Procedures in Education**
- EDPS 69900 – Research, Ph.D. Thesis (15 credits)

*May be transferred in from masters program. Then 15 credits post-masters is required.
** Departmental Foundations course in Educational Studies.

For additional information about the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, please contact Dr. Matthew Della Sala, mdella@purdue.edu.