Higher Education Program
Degree Requirements: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Graduate study in higher education prepares individuals for careers in administration and leadership in public and private two-year colleges, four-year institutions, and universities. Graduates work in a variety of service, research, and teaching programs in education agencies and organizations throughout the United States and abroad. Their careers offer the satisfaction of serving human needs and realizing valued societal goals. Graduate study in higher education can also improve opportunities for advancement and mobility as well as offer intrinsic rewards that stimulate productivity, enhance expertise, and renew motivation.

A Ph.D. student will demonstrate knowledge of theory and research. Ph.D. students will gain expertise in their chosen specialization and expertise over the course of their studies. By choosing a specialization, a student will be able to combine elective and core courses with other learning experiences in order to pursue their unique educational and professional goals. In general, curricula are designed to provide a knowledge base about the professional field and a theoretical framework to guide research and career development in higher education (2015 Doctoral Handbook). Our Ph.D. program has two specializations:

Student Affairs Specialization:
The Student Affairs specialty emphasizes the individual, institutional, and sociocultural factors that contribute to student success in higher education. Working with faculty, students will apply theory and practice to drive cutting edge research on students, student development, and student affairs.

Public Policy in Higher Education Specialization:
A Public Policy specialty provides education in major policy issues and responses; policy development, implementation, and evaluation; the politics and foundations of higher education; disciplinary approaches and rigorous methods. The goal of this specialization is to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to become leaders in the area public policy for higher education, as faculty, researchers and policy leaders.

Together the two specializations share the common goal of addressing the need for better institutional performance in educating and graduating large numbers of students. Ultimately they serve the same purpose while adopting somewhat separate, yet overlapping, perspectives.

The Ph.D. requires:
- Minimum of 57 semester hours of coursework beyond the master’s degree and 24 hours of dissertation credit.
- The minimum of 57 semester hours must include:
  - 9 hours of core courses
  - 21 hours of research courses
  - 18 hours of specialization courses
  - 9 hours of disciplinary courses
  - + 24 dissertation hours
  - 3.00 minimum GPA
Doctoral Residency
  - Residency credits must be earned by each student after being admitted to a doctoral program. Residency is a University requirement; it is enforced by the Dean of Graduate Studies without exception. After completing 30 credit hours, a Ph.D. student must be continuously enrolled on the Tallahassee campus for a minimum of 24 graduate semester hours of credit in any period of 12 consecutive months. The University permits residency credits to be earned at any time during the period of matriculation for the doctoral degree.

Ph.D. Program of Study

Higher Education Core (9 hours)
- EDH 5051 Higher Education in America (3)
- EDH 6635 Organization and Governance (3)
- EDH 6936 Seminar in Student Development Theories (3)

Specialization (Specified Track: Public Policy or Student Affairs) (18 hours)
Public Policy:
- EDH 6505 Finance of Higher Education (3)
- EDH 6401 Public Policy in Higher Education (3)
- EDH 5931 Sociology of Higher Education (3)
- EDF 5652 Policy Development (3)
- EDH 5931 Politics of Higher Education (3)
- EDF 5624 Economics of Education (3)

Student Affairs:
- EDH 5931 Seminar on College Student Populations (3)
- EDH 5931 College Student Advising (3)
- EDH 6040 Research on College Students (3)

Choose 1 Technology course:
- EME 6414 Web 2.0 based learning and performance (3)
- EME 5457 Intro to distance learning: Trends and issues (3)

Choose 2 of the following courses:
- EDH 6081 Leading Change in Higher Education (3)
- EDH 6067 International Perspectives in Higher Education (3)
- EDH 6085 Social Justice in Higher Education (3)
- EDF 5519 History of Higher Education in America (3)
- EDH 5931 Sociology of Higher Education (3)
- EDH 6401 Public Policy in Higher Education (3)

Discipline Courses (9 hours) - work with major professor
# Research Core (minimum 21 hours)

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDF 6486</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods in Educational Leadership &amp; Policy</td>
<td>(3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDF 5935</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics for Education Research</td>
<td>(3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDF 6475</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods of Education</td>
<td>(3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDF 5935</td>
<td>Applied Regression</td>
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<td>ZZZ 0000</td>
<td>Advanced Methods I</td>
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<td>ZZZ 0000</td>
<td>Advanced Methods II</td>
<td>(3)</td>
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<td>EDA 6930</td>
<td>Literature Review (or EDH 6935 Prospectus Development)</td>
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# Dissertation (24 hours)

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<td>Preliminary Examination (0)</td>
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<td>EDH 6980</td>
<td>Dissertation Hours (24)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDH 9985</td>
<td>Dissertation Defense (0)</td>
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\[1\] Scheduled semester may vary. Check department listings.