

Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

College of Education

Requirements for Program

The Interdisciplinary Early Childhood (IEC) MEd program prepares educators for leadership roles in schools, programs, and systems that serve children, birth through age five, with and without disabilities and their families. Graduates are awarded the MEd degree in Education with a major in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood. In the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood program, students will build upon their skills as active, critical consumers of research and are expected to consume and produce research that will inform their practice. At this advanced level, students are expected to reflect not only on matters within the classroom context, but also on systems such as schools, families, communities, and policy. Through engaging students in a variety of learning experiences, including field-based experiences, professional literature, and conducting research, the M.Ed. program prepares graduates to build upon their leadership skills so they are prepared to actively engage in their chosen professions as agents of research-based change.

The program is guided by the standards of the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The program also embeds Kentucky's Standards for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education and the Kentucky Early Childhood Core Content within courses and field experiences.

The IEC program admits twice a year: October 15th is the deadline for completed Department application submissions for Spring or Summer admission; March 15th is the deadline for completed Department application submissions for Summer or Fall. After completed applications are received by the deadline, candidates with complete applications are invited for an interview. Upon admission to the program, students are assigned an advisor and a Curriculum Contract is completed.

For application procedures, please go to the Graduate School web site (<http://gradschool.uky.edu>) and follow the directions for the Apply Yourself application. This electronic application incorporates the program and Graduate School application process.

Continuous Assessment

- 1. Assessment at the Point of Entry to the IEC Program.** In addition to satisfying the criteria for admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School, all MEd applicants must complete a departmental application, which includes indicators of written language and professional writing, technology skills, and professional goals, supported by professional letters of recommendation. The program faculty reviews the students' portfolio and interview results to make a determination on entry.
- 2. On-going Assessment.** Once students are admitted to the program, they plan with their advisor the remainder of the program. Midpoint review is not necessarily a single point of assessment, and because of the different program options, mid-point evaluations are not restricted to specific timelines or identified courses. All advanced study candidates are evaluated by the conclusion of 15 semester credit hours. Evaluation criteria include the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA and the satisfactory performance in coursework and field placements.
- 3. Exit Assessment.** MEd students undergo exit review at the conclusion of the final course required on

the program plan for the MEd degree. Because of the distinction between requirements for fulfilling Rank and degree, there may be multiple “exit” reviews for a given student. Thus, students pursuing the Master’s may opt to file for Rank change prior to completion of the thesis. In such cases, there will in essence be two “exit” assessments; one for Rank and a subsequent assessment upon thesis completion.

Graduate Courses

Core Graduate Coursework

IEC 620	Assessment in IECE	(3)
IEC 621	Issues in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	(3)
IEC 623	Practicum in IECE	(3)
IEC 710	Advanced Instructional Methods in IECE	(3)
IEC 659	Advanced Child Development	(3)
EDS 768	Residence Credit for Master’s Degree	(3)

Research Core

Two courses in a research methodology selected by the student and approved by the thesis advisor; may include courses in a) single subject, b) qualitative, or c) group design.

EDS 601 & EDS 633 (6)
EPE 663 & EPE 763 (6) OR
EDP 557 & EDP 660 (6)

Electives

Students choose 9 hours of approved electives in one of the following areas:

1. Administration & Program Development
2. Curriculum Leadership & Technical Assistance
3. Policy & Advocacy
4. Higher Education & Research

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education Sciences

Program Overview

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education Sciences (major code: EDSC) program is designed for individuals seeking careers in educational research. Graduates of the program are prepared to meet the growing national need for educators who are well trained in methodological issues in education research. This Ph.D. program prepares individuals who will have careers in research universities, educational research labs and corporations, and research groups within education agencies.

All EDSC students will be encouraged to apply for 20-hour per week research assistantships on grant-supported projects in the College of Education and other units at the University of Kentucky. In addition to coursework, students will be expected to attend local, state, or national professional conferences during the first and second years of their programs. All students will be expected to present their research at professional conferences by their third year in the program. EDSC doctoral students are expected to submit manuscripts to professional journals and accomplish refereed publications during their doctoral study. Presentations and publications may be scholarly works with a single author or groups of co-authors.

Curriculum

EDSC is a rigorous doctoral program that requires year-round, full-time study. Students are encouraged to apply for admission for the Fall semester. Students seeking Spring admission should contact the program

DGS to determine if the strand they are interested in allows for Spring admissions. Students will be required to complete a set of core courses in research methods and education policy; in addition, students will then be able to follow a particular “strand” of courses in an area of specialization. All students will be involved in educational research projects throughout their time in the program.

EDSC doctoral students will be required to designate at the time of application the strand that they would like to complete. These include advanced concentrations in the areas of:

- a. Curriculum and instruction
- b. Educational leadership
- c. Educational policy studies: Educational evaluation and policy
- d. Educational policy studies: Philosophical and cultural inquiry
- e. Health education
- f. Interdisciplinary early childhood education
- g. Physical education
- h. Rehabilitation counseling
- i. Special education
- j. STEM education

Additional information about the curriculum, including specific course requirements, may be found in the document: Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education Sciences Program Plan and Curriculum Sheet. This document is a tool for current and prospective students and faculty advisors.

Applications

Qualified applicants will have earned baccalaureate and master’s degrees from fully accredited institutions. Applicants must meet admission requirements set by the University of Kentucky Graduate School. Applications to the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education Sciences are made online through the UK Graduate School Apply Yourself application process. Details about the application process can be found at <http://gradschool.uky.edu/admissions>.