

Educational Policy Studies & Evaluation

College of Education

The Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation offers programs leading to degrees in the Master of Science (M.S.) in Higher Education, M.S. in Social and Philosophical Studies in Education, M.S. in Research Methods in Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Studies in Higher Education, and the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Policy Studies, Measurement, and Evaluation. The department also participates in the College of Education's Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Education Sciences degree program with the Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry, Educational Evaluation and Policy, and Quantitative and Psychometric Methods strands. Additionally, the department offers graduate certificates in Research Methods in Education and International Education. The department has periodically offered an Ed.D. Cohort program in collaboration with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Admission to Programs

Prospective students of the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation must complete an application to the UK Graduate School and follow general Graduate School application requirements. All master's and doctoral applicants must submit (a) official transcripts for all previous coursework completed at any institution of higher education, (b) official scores on all three sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), (c) a statement of purpose, and (d) letters of reference. Master's applicants must provide two letters of recommendation, whereas doctoral applicants are required to provide four. Moreover, a writing sample is required of all doctoral applicants.

The deadline for application submission to the fall and summer semesters is January 15. The deadline for application submission to the spring semester is October 1 of the preceding year. The periodic Ed.D. Cohort will have its own separate application deadline. Because the Quantitative and Psychometric Methods strand of the Ph.D. in Education Sciences requires that its students begin in the fall semester, applicants must submit their completed applications by the January 15 deadline. The Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry and Educational Evaluation and Policy strands, as well as the M.S. in Research Methods in Education, operate on rolling admission, though students interested in applying for assistantships and/or scholarships must submit their applications in accordance with the January and October deadlines. Graduate certificates also operate on rolling admission.

It should be noted that international students' deadlines may differ from these listings depending on regulations set by the Graduate School. A list of current application deadlines and requirements can be found [here](#). You may view the current Graduate School admission requirements [here](#).

Admission Requirements

Admission to the department follows the basic application requirements as specified above. Moreover, those seeking admission must comply with the Graduate School regulations. Incoming international students should check the Graduate School's website or contact an admissions officer in the Graduate School for additional requirements.

Master of Science in Higher Education

The Master of Science in Higher Education (HIED) is a degree program with options of focus in Higher Education Policy and Student Services. The program serves those contemplating careers in higher education or already working in a college or university, as well as those interested in pursuing the study of higher education at the doctoral level.

HIED Curriculum

The program requires 31 hours of coursework to be completed. Courses required of all MSHE students include EPE 601: Proseminar (1 credit hour), EPE 612: Introduction to Higher Education, EPE 653: History of Higher Education, and EPE 676: Organization and Administration of Higher Education. The MSHE program plan also requires one research course, 9 credit hours in the Policy or Student Services emphasis, and 9 additional elective credits.

MSHE students who are in their final semester of coursework are required to take a two-part exam. Students learn about the exam during EPE 601: Proseminar and will receive more information about it during the final semester in which they are enrolled.

Master of Science in Social & Philosophical Studies in Education

The Master of Science in Social and Philosophical Studies in Education (SPSE) works well as a foundation for doctoral study. When focused with an approved “topical major,” the degree may also serve a variety of career and academic purposes. Students following this degree program may engage in the study of the history, sociology, philosophy, and comparative international analyses of education.

SPSE Curriculum

The program requires 31 hours of coursework to be completed. The only specific course that SPSE students are required to take is EPE 601: Proseminar (1 credit hour), but program students must take a minimum of 12 hours in their core area of study and at least 18 hours in a concentration of their choosing. Typically, students take at least one research course. Each SPSE student’s program plan is highly individualized, as it is created according to their interests and with the guidance of their advisor. A student’s program of study may vary from this structure if they receive approval from their major advisor.

SPSE students are required to write and be examined on a scholarly paper in order to graduate from the program. During their final semester, SPSE students will consult their major advisor and form a three-person committee before an examination is held.

Master of Science in Research Methods in Education

The Master of Science in Research Methods in Education (RMinE) prepares students for careers in settings such as academic institutions, testing organizations, school districts, and state and federal agencies. It is designed to provide a foundation in basic research methods within a problem-of-practice framework while allowing students a focused area of emphasis on Quantitative Methods, Evaluation, or Research Design. RMinE students have the option to complete the entirety of their coursework online.

RMinE Curriculum

The program requires 37 hours of coursework, all of which is available online. Courses required of all MSHE students include EPE 601: Proseminar (1 credit hour) and 18 credit hours of core coursework. Each student will complete 18 hours in their chosen concentration. Each concentration has 6 hours of required courses and 12 hours of electives. Specific program plan listings can be found online at <https://education.uky.edu/epe/rmine/plan-and-courses/>. A student’s program of study may vary from this structure if they receive approval from their major advisor.

At the end of the program, RMinE students are expected to be able to implement an evaluation, create and test an assessment, or design and conduct an advanced quantitative research study. RMinE students are required to write and be examined on a scholarly paper in order to graduate from the program. During their final semester, they will consult their major advisor and form a three-person committee before an examination is held.

Doctor of Education in Educational Policies, Measurement, & Evaluation

The Ed.D. program in Educational Policy Studies, Measurement, and Evaluation (EPME) provides advanced study for those who seek careers in the administration or evaluation of educational programs in schools, colleges, or other institutional settings. Ed.D. candidates may pursue a variety of research interests including but not limited to institutional research and assessment, educational measurement and evaluation, P-12 educational policy issues, post-secondary education, comparative education, and community/continuing education issues.

The Ed.D. differs from the Ph.D. in SHED in focus and audience. Ed.D. students prepare to address live or emerging issues in education as scholarly practitioners. Ed.D. candidates are expected to have a broad knowledge of research methodologies as applied to specific educational contexts.

Admission to this program is offered regularly on UK’s Lexington campus with an individualized, on-campus program of study. In addition, the department periodically offers the EPME with a focus on open-access post-secondary institutions via a statewide Ed.D. Cohort model that may continue as needed.

EPME Curriculum

The EPME requires completion of 43 credit hours of coursework (42 for members of the Ed.D. Cohort) and a two-part qualifying exam to qualify for doctoral candidacy. Before completing 18 credit hours, students constitute a four-person advisory committee in order to create an approved program of study and provide further guidance throughout their doctoral work. To graduate, EPME students must write a dissertation and defend it before their committee as part of their final exam.

In terms of course requirements, EPME students must take 1 hour of EPE 601: Proseminar, a minimum of 15 hours in a core area of concentration, at least 9 hours of research, and complete the rest of their hours in supporting coursework. Students are encouraged to take multiple courses in contextual studies in education and to take supporting coursework both inside and outside the College of Education. A student’s program of study may vary from this structure with approval from their program committee. Ed.D. Cohort students’ courses may follow a pattern predetermined by their cohort director.

Graduate Certificates

The Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation offers graduate certificates in International Education and Research Methods in Education (RMinE). These certificates are designed to provide students with formal recognition of the mastery of a clearly defined academic topic.

Admission to Certificate Programs

Certificate applicants are required to apply through the Graduate School’s ApplyYourself portal. The general requirements for admission to a certificate curriculum are the same as those in effect for post-baccalaureate status. Students who already are or will be enrolled in a degree program, or those who simply apply for post-baccalaureate (non-degree) status with the Graduate School in order to complete the certificate, are eligible to apply for admission. A student should apply and be admitted to the certificate curriculum prior to completion of coursework for the certificate. For current admission requirements, visit the Graduate School’s [certificate webpage](#).

Additional requirements for admission to the Graduate Certificate in International Education are to submit letters of support and complete the certificate application form [found online](#). A letter of support can come from a student’s graduate advisor (for current graduate students), DGS (for new graduate students), or research supervisor (for post-doctoral students). Individuals who are non-degree-seeking, have already received their doctorate or other terminal degree, and/or who are enrolling at UK only for the certificate must submit two letters of recommendation. The Graduate Certificate in Research Methods in Education also requires its applicants to complete the Graduate Certificate in RMinE course plan [found here](#).

Graduate Certificate in International Education

The Graduate Certificate in International Education prepares graduate students for careers in international education, including but not limited to education abroad, international student services, and placement in other international organizations which support the exchange of students in higher education. Through elective courses appropriate to student interests, students will develop a regional area of cultural expertise and participate in at least one professional vocational experience with an emphasis on developing skills in evaluation/assessment, management, and program development.

The certificate curriculum combines 9 hours of core courses and 6 hours of elective coursework for a required total of 15 credit hours. Although the certificate does not require language coursework as part of the curriculum, participants must establish their language proficiency relative to their professional and regional concentration so that they are prepared to be effective and competitive in the field.

A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their certificate coursework in order to be awarded the Graduate Certificate in International Education. Award of the certificate requires formal admission to the certificate, as well as the approval of the course of study and certificate completion worksheets.

The Director of the Graduate Certificate in International Education is Dr. Beth Goldstein. She can be contacted at bethg@uky.edu and at (859) 257-2705.

Graduate Certificate in Research Methods in Education

The Graduate Certificate in RMinE provides students with the ability to specialize in education research methods that can be applied to a host of disciplines, including social sciences, physical sciences, K-12 instruction/administration, and business. The certificate combines 12 hours of core courses and 3 hours of elective coursework for a required total of 15 credit hours.

A student must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their certificate coursework in order to be awarded the Graduate Certificate in RMinE. Award of the certificate requires formal admission to the certificate, as well as the approval of the course of study and certificate completion worksheets.

The Director of the Graduate Certificate in RMinE is Dr. Kelly Bradley. She can be contacted at kelly.bradley@uky.edu and at (859) 257-4923.

Additional Information

For further information, contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation. You may also contact the department's administrative assistant in 145 Taylor Education Building at (859) 257-2626.

Graduate Courses

EPE 520	Program Evaluation	(3)
EPE 522	Psychological And Educational Tests And Measurements	(3)
EPE 525	Special Topics Seminar In Educational Policy Studies And Evaluation (Subtitle Required)	(3)
EPE 554	Culture, Education And Teaching Abroad (Same As EDC 554)	(3)
EPE 555	Comparative Education	(3)
EPE 557	Gathering, Analyzing, And Using Educational Data (Same As EDP 557)	(3)
EPE 558	Gathering, Analyzing, And Using Educational Data II (Same As EDP 558)	(3)
EPE 571	Writing Seminar In Educational Research	(3)
EPE 600	Social Foundations Topics For Secondary Education	(1)
EPE 601	Proseminar	(1)

EPE 602	Social Policy Issues And Education	(1-3)
EPE 603	Politics Of Educational Leadership (Same As EDL 704)	(3)
EPE 612	Introduction To Higher Education	(3)
EPE 619	Survey Research Methods In Education (Subtitle Required)	(3)
EPE 620	Topics And Methods Of Evaluation (Same As EDP 620/ANT 620/SOC 622)	(3)
EPE 621	Advanced Topics And Methods Of Evaluation (Same As EDP/ANT 621)	(3)
EPE 622	College And University Faculty	(3)
EPE 628	Ethics And Educational Decision Making	(3)
EPE 632	Student Services	(3)
EPE 640	Philosophy Of Education	(3)
EPE 650	History Of Western Education	(3)
EPE 651	History Of Education In The United States	(3)
EPE 652	History Of Educational Thought	(3)
EPE 653	History Of Higher Education	(3)
EPE 655	Comparative Higher Education	(3)
EPE 660	Research Design And Analysis In Education	(3)
EPE 661	Sociology Of Education (Same As SOC 661)	(3)
EPE 663	Field Studies In Educational Institutions	(3)
EPE 665	Education And Culture	(3)
EPE 667	Education And Gender	(3)
EPE 669	Oral History	(3)
EPE 670	Policy Issues In Higher Education	(3)
EPE 672	College Teaching And Learning	(3)
EPE 674	Theories Of Student Development	(3)
EPE 675	Sociology Of Higher Education	(3)
EPE 676	Organization And Administration Of Higher Education	(3)
EPE 678	Economics Of Higher Education	(3)
EPE 679	Introduction To Measurement Theory And Techniques (Same As EDP 679)	(3)
EPE 680	Politics Of Higher Education	(3)
EPE 681	History Of University Governance And Its Legal Context	(3)
EPE 682	Higher Education And The Law	(3)
EPE 683	Affirmative Action And Federal Regulation Of Higher Ed	(3)
EPE 684	Higher Education And Athletics: A Historical Analysis	(3)
EPE 685	The Research University	(3)
EPE 686	Philanthropy And Higher Education	(3)
EPE 690	The Community College	(3)
EPE 703	Preparing Research Proposals	(3)
EPE 707	Multivariate Analysis In Educational Research (Same As EDP 707)	(3)
EPE 711	Advanced Quantitative Methods (Same As EDP 711)	(3-12)
EPE 712	Advanced Psychometric Methods (Same As EDP 712)	(3)
EPE 763	Advanced Field Studies	(3)
EPE 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
EPE 773	Seminar In Educational Policy Studies And Evaluation	(1-3)
EPE 778	Seminar In History Of Education In Kentucky	(3)
EPE 785	Independent Studies In Educational Policy Studies And Evaluation	(1-3)
EPE 790	Internship In Educational Policy Studies And Evaluation	(1-6)
EPE 797	Historical Research On Education	(3)
EPE 798	Seminar In Higher Education	(3)