

Education Sciences

College of Education

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:

- Curriculum and instruction
- Educational leadership
- Educational policy studies: Educational evaluation and policy
- Educational policy studies: Philosophical and cultural inquiry
- Health education
- Interdisciplinary early childhood education
- Physical education
- Rehabilitation counseling
- Special education
- STEM education

Application

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.