



Doctor of Philosophy Degrees Academic Information
Declaration of Intent to Study for a Doctoral Degree

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies is offered through the College of Education. Two degrees are offered, the Ph.D. in Elementary Education and the Ph.D. in Secondary Education. The degree will be awarded to the student who, in addition to filling the general requirements of the Graduate School, has met the following specific requirements:

Successful completion of all Departmental Admission Requirements

Completion of the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

A minimum of 92 graduate credits including the doctoral dissertation. A student considered deficient in any area may be required to take additional courses.

Completion of a foundation studies program designed to prepare the student before specialization.

Successful completion of a test in a language judged not to be the student's native tongue:

A student in the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies may elect to develop appropriate research skills prescribed by the advisor, subject to review by the department head, in lieu of the foreign language requirement. See page two.

Completion of at least six credits in a cognate area.

Completion of a comprehensive written and oral examination.

Completion of a dissertation comprising 20 credits. Credits beyond the 20 hours may not be applied to the degree. The oral examining committee must be constituted of at least five full-time graduate faculty members, one of whom must be from outside the College.

Pass the general requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies

The Doctor of Philosophy degrees offered by the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies are designed to meet the needs and interests of persons in pre-K, elementary, middle, secondary, postsecondary, higher education, and other institutions or agencies that might have educational/learning programs. A qualified student can, through consultation with an advisor and within the expertise and resources of the department, design a specialization to meet his/her career objectives.

Program Description

The program is predicated on the belief that an effective instructor evolves from a well-planned program containing exposure in three basic areas:

1. Common core foundational studies
2. A specialization
3. Professional education in Curricular and Instructional Studies
4. Other contributing disciplines (cognate)

With this philosophy in mind, the program provides study in a common core of study, a selected discipline, professional education, and cognate fields. Listed below and of particular significance are the two sequential steps necessary in the program:

1. Written and Oral Comprehensive

These Comprehensive Examinations should be taken after the completion of the first two-thirds of work and prior to the completion of three-fourths of the program with the approval of the student's advisor.

2. Dissertation

The dissertation proposal must receive approval of the Dissertation Committee prior to advancement to candidacy.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Curricular and Instructional Studies Ph.D. program is limited to a select number of students each year. More candidates apply for admission than the Department has the resources and capacity to admit. Therefore, applying for admission to the doctoral

program is no guarantee of admission, and applicants to the program must recognize the possibility of denial. Criteria for admission to the Curricular and Instructional Studies Ph.D. program are as follows:

1. Graduate and undergraduate degrees from accredited universities and in programs considered to offer adequate preparation for the Ph.D. in Curricular and Instructional Studies.
2. Acceptable grade point averages in a completed graduate degree (at least a 3.50 GPA on a scale of 4.0).
3. Demonstration of doctoral level writing ability as evidenced by a Miller Analogies Test score of 399 or higher, or a 550 on the verbal portion of the GRE, and a prescribed and evaluated written assignment. Scores must not be more than 5 years old.
4. Controlled writing sample assignment. This requirement will be administered after the March 1 and October 1 admission deadlines. Consult the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies Office for specific test date.
5. Submit a current vita, three letters of academic reference, and official transcripts.

The following statements govern use of the Miller Analogies Test/GRE and a controlled writing sample as part of the Admissions criteria:

- a. All doctoral applicants must take the MAT or the GRE. Scores more than 5 years old will not be accepted for evaluation of the doctoral application.
 - b. Applicants who score less than 399 on the MAT or 550 on the verbal portion of the GRE do not successfully complete the controlled writing sample, and do not meet the GPA requirement will not be admitted to the doctoral program.
4. Intended area of specialization is compatible with departmental resources and goals. Applicants must submit a letter of intent indicating their career goals and research interest.
 5. Obtain faculty sponsorship through completion of the Agreement to Advise form that is included with this information. [The major advisor must be from the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies; the minor advisor must be from the College of Education.](#)

All doctoral applicants must do the following:

1. Complete all the admission materials, including the Agreement to Advise, as specified in Requirements and Procedures of the Doctoral Programs in Education by March 1 for Fall admits or October 1 for Spring admits.
2. Complete the Miller Analogies Test or Graduate Record Exam. This includes applicants who may have taken either of their tests as a Master's level applicant.
3. Complete a controlled writing assignment offered in March for the Fall and October for the Spring..
5. Interview with committee of departmental Graduate Faculty. Candidates may also be judged on depth and breadth of knowledge, poise, thinking ability, ability to communicate verbally, relevant educational work experience, uniqueness, potential success in desired field, and motivation and commitment to a position of educational leadership.
6. In certain cases an applicant may be required to take course work on the graduate level at The University of Akron before a final decision on his/her application for admission is made.
7. Candidates must have at least three years of teaching experience. (This does not apply to postsecondary/technical adult education area candidates.)

Additional Research Competency

In addition to successfully completing the approved program of courses, the Ph.D. student must display competency in one of the following areas. Course work taken to develop the competency may not be applied to the total number of hours required in the Ph.D. program.

a. Foreign Language

A reading knowledge of one foreign language. The Department will work cooperatively with the Department of Modern Languages to determine that the student does in fact demonstrate the ability to read in a foreign language. English may be considered as one of the approved foreign languages for a students whose first language is not English.

b. **Statistics/Research Methods**

Students will successfully complete a minimum of 9 hours of additional advanced statistical/research methods courses approved by student's advisor.

c. **Professional Publication**

The preparation of a research or position paper accepted for publication by a refereed professional journal. The student may serve as senior or co-author. The advisor must file a letter of approval of the published writing. This letter shall present the advisor's review of the academic integrity of the published article in terms of adequacy in meeting this requirement. A letter of acceptance for publication shall be considered as published.

Doctoral Residency Requirements

The minimum residency requirement for a doctoral candidate in all programs is at least two consecutive semesters of full-time study and involvement in departmental activities. Full-time study is defined as 9-15 semester credits, except for graduate teaching and research assistants for whom full-time is specified by assistantship agreements. The summer session may count as one semester, provided that the candidate is enrolled for a maximum of 10 consecutive weeks of full-time study and for a minimum of six semester hours per five-week session (University of Akron Graduate Bulletin, 1996-97, p. 24).

Selecting a Dissertation Chair

The candidate's dissertation chair must be from the Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies and hold Level II status. If the candidate desires a co-chair for the dissertation, the co-chair may be from a University of Akron Department or College other than Curricular and Instructional Studies and must hold Level II status.

Curricular and Instructional Studies Ph.D. Course Requirements

Social-Philosophical Foundations (15)

- 5100:600 (3) Philosophies of Education (or 602 or 604)
- 5100:620 (3) Psychology of Instruction for Teaching and Learning (or 624 or 5400:500)
- 5100:701 (3) History of Education in American Society (or 703)
- 5100:705 (3) Seminar in Social/Philosophical Foundations of Education
- 5100:723 (3) Teaching Behavior and Instruction (or 721 or 710)

Research Foundations (18)

- 5100:640 (3) Techniques of Research
- 5100:740 (3) Research Design
- 5100:741 (3) Data Collection Methods
- 5100:742 (3) Statistics in Education
- 5100:744 (3) Qualitative Methods I *and*
- 5100:745 (3) Qualitative Methods II
- or --
- 5100:801 (3) Seminar I: Exploratory/Qualitative *and*
- 5100:801 (3) Seminar: Empirical *or* Seminar II: Ethnographic/Historical or Case Study Research or Legal Research and Writing *or* another advisor-approved course

Curricular and Instructional Studies Core (15)

- 5500:800 (3) Professional Doctoral Seminar in Curricular and Instructional Studies
- 5500:880 (3) Seminar in Curricular and Instructional Studies
- 5500:600 (3) Concepts of Curriculum & Instruction (or 5400:xxx)
- 5500:605 (3) Seminar in Trends and Issues in Curriculum & Instruction (or 5400:xxx)

Three additional hours will be selected in the area of Curricular and Instructional Studies with advisor approval

Area of Specialization: 18 credit hours

Cognate Area Outside of Education: 6 credit hours

Dissertation: 20 credit hours

Total Program: 92 credit hours

Additional coursework taken to develop a competency area may not be applied to the total number of hours required in the Ph.D. program.

Curricular and Instructional Studies Ph.D. Program

Agreement to Advise

I agree to advise the doctoral candidate named below if that candidate qualifies for admission to the program.

To be filled out by the candidate:

Name _____

Area of concentration _____

Possible research areas _____

Reason for seeking Curricular and Instructional Studies Ph.D. _____

Major Advisor:

Faculty Member's Signature
(Department of Curricular and Instructional Studies)

Candidate's Signature

Minor Advisor:

Faculty Member's Signature
(College of Education)

Date