Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, PhD

Higher Education and Student Affairs

The Doctor of Philosophy program in educational policy and leadership studies with a higher education and student affairs subprogram requires a minimum of 74 s.h. of graduate credit. At least 39 s.h. must be earned while registered in the Graduate College at the University of Iowa, and after formal program admission. Students must earn a UI cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The doctoral program prepares individuals to be leaders in student affairs and academic administration, graduate faculty at research universities, leaders in conducting research about college students and higher education, policy analysts in postsecondary institutions and public or private agencies, and teachers and academic leaders at two-year and four-year colleges. The higher education and student affairs program integrates academic experience with the cocurricular learning experiences of students and studies the outcomes of both.

The PhD in educational policy and leadership studies with a higher education and student affairs subprogram requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Substantive Core Courses	18
Research Methods Courses	18
Concentration Area Courses	12
Electives	24
Dissertation	2

Substantive Core

The substantive core provides a foundational understanding of higher education and general knowledge that all students must master, regardless of their career goals and interests. All courses in the core (18 s.h.) must be completed at the University of Iowa.

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
EPLS:6216	Finance in Higher Education	3
EPLS:6220	History of Higher Education	3
EPLS:6224	Organizational Theory and Administrative Behavior	3
EPLS:6273	College Students	3
EPLS:6275	Higher Education and Society	3
EPLS:6311	Seminar: Research Topic in Education	3

Research Methods

Research methods courses (at least 18 s.h.) ensure that students achieve scholarly autonomy and initiative.

Basic Research Methods

Course #	Title	Hours
Both of these (6 s.h.):		
EPLS:6206	Research Process and Design	3
EPLS:7373	Qualitative Research Design and Methods (or approved substitute)	3

Statistics/Linear Regression

These courses (6 s.h.) must be taken in this order.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
PSQF:6243	Intermediate Statistical Methods	3
Then this course:		
EPLS:6370	Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis	3

Advanced Research Methods

Students consult with their advisor to choose two courses (at least 6 s.h.) from either list appropriate to their dissertation design and intended learning outcomes.

Qualitative Methods

Course #	Title	Hours
EPLS:5260	Introduction to Institutional Research and Effectiveness	3
EPLS:7392	Mixed Methods Research	3
EDTL:7071	Critical Discourse Analysis in Educational Research	3
EDTL:7072	Advanced Methods of Literacy Research: Qualitative Data Analysis and Reporting	3
EDTL:7073	Ethnographic Methods, Theories, and Texts	3
Another comparable research methods course approved by advisor		

Quantitative Methods

Course #	Title	Hours
EPLS:5260	Introduction to Institutional Research and Effectiveness	3
EPLS:6209	Survey Research and Design	3
POLI:7003	Advanced Methodology	4
PSQF:6246	Design of Experiments	3
Another comparable research methods course approved by advisor		

Concentration Area

The concentration area (12 s.h.) gives students the opportunity to develop expertise in one area. Students consult with their advisor to develop the concentration curriculum. Students select from these options or from a different thematic combination of other graduate coursework numbered 5000 or above approved by their advisor.

Course #	Title	Hours
12 s.h. from these:		
EPLS:5251	College Environments	3

EPLS:5253	Assessment in Higher Education and Student Affairs	3
EPLS:6217	Theory for Scholar Practitioners	2-3
EPLS:6218	The Law and Higher Education	3
EPLS:6225	Higher Education Policy	3
EPLS:6266	Program Evaluation	3
EPLS:6321	Social Advocacy Summit	1
EPLS:6332	College Student Development	3
EPLS:6336	Impact of College on Students	3
EPLS:7385	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3
EPLS:7432	Strategies for Inclusive Leadership	3

Electives

Students choose electives numbered 3000 or above as appropriate to their individual goals. These may draw from courses offered by counselor education (prefix CSED), teaching and learning (prefix EDTL), educational policy and leadership studies (prefix EPLS), and psychological and quantitative foundations (prefix PSQF) or by other University of Iowa departments and programs. Electives must be approved by the student's advisor. Some prior graduate coursework may be appropriate and applicable, and can be applied as elective credit with approval by the student's advisor.

Comprehensive Examination

The PhD comprehensive examination consists of a question written by the student in consultation with their advisor, and formally approved by the higher education and student affairs faculty. Students are expected to construct a well-supported argument informed by knowledge of the theory, research, and practice that constitutes the field of higher education based on the substantive core and the student's concentration. The written examination is followed by an oral examination.

Dissertation

The dissertation is a major research study planned in collaboration with the student's advisor. Students must write a formal dissertation proposal and submit it for approval, first to their advisor and then to the members of their doctoral committee. Students and their advisors determine when the proposal is complete. Students must earn 2 s.h. of dissertation research credit. The doctoral program culminates with a final oral defense of the dissertation.

Students must be registered at the University of Iowa each fall and spring semester from the semester in which they complete their comprehensive examination through the semester in which they defend their dissertation and graduate.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College.