

# 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 90 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 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	18-21
Concentration Area Courses	18
Graduate Electives	24
Dissertation	12

## Substantive Core

The substantive core provides 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	Diversity and Equity in Higher Education	3
EPLS:6311	Seminar: Research Topic in Education	3

## Research Methods

Research methods courses (at least 18 s.h.) assure 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
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## Statistics/Linear Regression

These courses (6–7 s.h.) must be taken in this order.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
PSQF:6243	Intermediate Statistical Methods	3
One of these:		
EPLS:6370	Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis	3
PSQF:6244	Correlation and Regression	4

## Advanced/Specialized 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:5240	Topics in Education (when topic is introduction to historical methodology or critical qualitative inquiry)	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:5240	Topics in Education (when topic is multilevel modeling)	3
EPLS:6209	Survey Research and Design	3
POLI:7003	Advanced Methodology	4
PSQF:6246	Design of Experiments	3
SOC:7170	Advanced Statistical Modeling of Data	3
SOC:7180	Structural Equation Modeling	3

Another comparable research methods course approved by advisor

## Concentration Area

The concentration area (18 s.h.) gives students the opportunity to develop expertise in one area. Students consult with their advisor to develop the concentration curriculum.

## Graduate Electives

Students choose 24 s.h. of elective graduate coursework in consultation with their advisors. A student and their advisor may determine that some of the graduate elective work may be drawn from appropriate previous graduate coursework that complements other aspects of the student's doctoral program.

## 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 12 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. Transcripts, a résumé or curriculum vita, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement are required. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test is optional. The statement of purpose (one to three pages) should include professional and/or research interests, whether the applicant plans to enroll full- or part-time, and how the applicant's goals and experiences are consistent with the higher education and student affairs program's mission and values.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For specific score requirements, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

The early action application deadline is Dec. 1; the regular decision application deadline is April 15 for admission the following fall.

For more information on higher education and student affairs programs, see the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies website.