

# EDUCATION POLICY, PHD

Students in the Education Policy Ph.D. program pursue an individualized program of study that reflects their specific interests in education policy at the local, state, national, or international levels.

The Education Policy Ph.D. program equips graduates with the knowledge and methodological tools to use, understand, and conduct research on the pressing educational issues of the day. Students pursue an individualized program of study that reflects their specific interests, and are required to write a significant qualifying paper and complete a dissertation on an issue in education. At the heart of the Ph.D. program is the research apprenticeship, where students work on research projects alongside faculty members. Doctoral students are matched with Education Policy faculty members whose research interests align with their own. Our program prepares students for a variety of careers, including faculty positions at institutions of higher education, and policy research positions at research firms, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

**For more information:** <https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/education-policy-phd> (<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/academics/programs/education-policy-phd/>)

## Curriculum

Code	Title	Course Units
<b>Disciplinary Foundation Courses</b>		
Select four of the following:		4
EDUC 5414	Economics of Education in Lower Middle Income Countries	
EDUC 5436	Philosophical Aspects of Education Policy	
EDUC 5451	Politics and Education	
EDUC 5460	American Education Reform: History, Policy, Practice	
EDUC 5490	School and Society in America	
EDUC 5782	Sociology of Education	
EDUC 6118	Leadership in Educational Institutions	
EDUC 6736	Education Finance Policy	
EDUC 6784	Economics of Education	
EDUC 7531	Risk, Resilience, and Prevention Science	
EDUC 7708	The Social Organization of Schooling	
EDUC 7742	Teachers and Teaching Policy	
SOCI 5960	Sociology of Education	
MSSP 7060	Behavioral Economics and Social Policy Design	
A course approved by your advisor		
<b>Policy and Program Analysis</b>		
Select three of the following:		3
EDUC 5760	Applied Research Methods to Inform Policy and Practice	
EDUC 6720	Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education	
EDUC 6739	Applied Policy Analysis	
EDUC 8710	Advanced Analysis in the Economics of Education	

EDUC 8762	Applied Research & Reporting	
<b>Quantitative Research Methods</b>		
Select five of the following:		5
EDUC 6667	Introductory Statistics for Educational Research	
EDUC 7762	Introduction to Applied Quantitative Methods for Education Research: Pre-K to 20	
STAT 5000	Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance	
STAT 5010	Introduction to Nonparametric Methods and Log-linear Models	
STAT 5030	Data Analytics and Statistical Computing	
STAT 5200	Applied Econometrics I	
STAT 5210	Applied Econometrics II	
STAT 5710	Modern Data Mining	
STAT 9210	Observational Studies	
EDUC 7665	Introduction to Causal Inference for Educational Research	
EDUC 7667	Regression and Analysis of Variance	
EDUC 7836	Quasi-Experimental Design	
EDUC 8671	Randomized Trials and Experiments	
EDUC 8680	Complex, Multilevel, and Longitudinal Research Models	
EDUC 8681	Classifications, Profiles, and Latent Growth Mixture Models	
SOCI 5351	Quantitative Methods II	
SOCI 6120	Categorical Data Analysis	
SOCI 6620	Panel Data Analysis	
<b>Elective Methods (Measurement, Qualitative, or Mixed)</b>		
Select two of the following:		2
EDUC 6130	Introduction to Mixed-Methods Research	
EDUC 6683	Survey Methods & Design	
EDUC 6684	Measurement & Assessment	
EDUC 7460	Qualitative Research: Concepts, Methods and Design	
EDUC 7464	Advanced Qualitative and Case Study Research	
EDUC 7671	Factor Analysis and Scale Development	
EDUC 7844	Building Inclusive Communities in Higher Education	
<b>Policy Seminar</b>		
Take the credit in second year of PhD program		1
EDUC 6738	Education Policy Issues	
<b>GSE First Year Seminar</b>		
EDUC 7132	Doctoral Proseminar on Education Research	1
<i>Additional Requirements<sup>1</sup></i>		
Students must complete all University Milestones for Doctoral Candidates in addition to specific milestones for GSE. These include:		
A Qualifications Evaluation (also known as Program Candidacy)		
A Preliminary Examination (also known as Doctoral Candidacy)		

An Oral Defense of the Dissertation Proposal	
Final Defense of the Dissertation	
Total Course Units	16

## University PhD Benchmarks

In addition to Program requirements, the following milestones must be completed:

Code	Title	Course Units
	Qualifying Evaluation	
	Candidacy Examination	
	Dissertation Defense/Oral Exam	
	Dissertation Deposit	

For more information view the University's Academic Rules for PhD Programs (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd/>).

<sup>1</sup> Required GSE Milestones  
Qualifications Evaluation (Also known as Program Candidacy): A Qualifications Evaluation of each student is conducted after the completion of 6 but not more than 8 course units. The evaluation is designed by the specialization faculty and may be based on an examination or on a review of a student's overall academic progress.  
Preliminary Examination (Also known as Doctoral Candidacy): A Candidacy Examination on the major subject area is required. The candidacy examination is a test of knowledge in the student's area of specialization, requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and reasoning in the key content areas in their specialization as defined by their academic division. This examination is normally held after the candidate has completed all required courses.  
Oral Proposal: All doctoral candidates must present their dissertation proposals orally and in person to the dissertation committee.  
Final Defense of the Dissertation: The final dissertation defense is approximately two hours in length and is based upon the candidate's dissertation.

## Required Milestones

### Qualifications Evaluation (Also known as Program Candidacy)

A Qualifications Evaluation of each student is conducted after the completion of 6 but not more than 8 course units. The evaluation is designed by the specialization faculty and may be based on an examination or on a review of a student's overall academic progress.

### Preliminary Examination (Also known as Doctoral Candidacy)

A Candidacy Examination on the major subject area is required. The candidacy examination is a test of knowledge in the student's area of specialization, requiring students to demonstrate knowledge and reasoning in the key content areas in their specialization as defined by their academic division. This examination is normally held after the candidate has completed all required courses.

### Oral Proposal

All doctoral candidates must present their dissertation proposals orally and in person to the dissertation committee.

## Final Defense of the Dissertation

The final dissertation defense is approximately two hours in length and is based upon the candidate's dissertation.

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.