

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND TEACHER EDUCATION, PHD

The Ph.D. and Ed.D. programs in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education prepare graduates to serve as researchers and teacher educators in universities and colleges, curriculum developers and evaluators in educational agencies, curriculum specialists in school districts and state departments of education, and instructional leaders and classroom teachers in K-12 schools.

Coursework and research experiences address a range of practice-based and theoretical problems in schools and community settings from sociopolitical, cultural, philosophical, psychological, and historical perspectives. Taking an interdisciplinary stance, faculty and students explore issues of equity, social justice and educational change in a range of formal and informal educational settings. Through their programs of study, students select focal areas such as teaching and learning, research and practice in teacher education, mathematics or science education, and the study of urban education and urban contexts. Applicants interested in the focal area of literacy are encouraged to consider the doctoral program in Reading/Writing/Literacy.

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

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/>).

Code	Title	Course Units
Conceptualization/Content Strand		
<i>Required Courses</i>		
EDUC 9126	How People Learn: Theoretical Foundations	1
EDUC 7140	Social Foundations of Teaching and Learning	1
Select one course in Teacher Learning or Teacher Education such as: ¹		
EDUC 7119	Research on Teacher Education and Learning to Teach	1
EDUC 6165	Research on Teaching	1
Investigation/Inquiry Strand		
<i>Required Courses</i>		
EDUC 7460	Qualitative Research: Concepts, Methods and Design	1
EDUC 7667	Regression and Analysis of Variance	1

Select one Advanced Research Methods course, such as:		1
EDUC 7464	Advanced Qualitative and Case Study Research	
EDUC 7468	Ethnographic Research Methods	
Professional Experiences ²		
<i>Required Course</i>		
EDUC 7132	Doctoral Proseminar on Education Research	1
Electives		
Select 5 electives at the 5000 level or above ³		5
<i>Additional Requirements</i> ⁴		
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		12

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¹ Chosen in consultation with an advisor.

² A non-credit bearing Research Apprenticeship Course is required from second semester of first year forward in the Professional Experiences Strand.

³ Electives may be taken outside of GSE with advisor approval. Electives must be 5000 level or above.

⁴ 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.

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.
