Interdisciplinary Programs

Ph.D. in Educational Studies in Diverse Populations (ESDP)

The Ph.D. in Educational Studies in Diverse Populations (ESDP) is to prepare professionals who can conduct research and lead innovation that enhances educational and life outcomes for diverse populations. This would include those who represent cultural or linguistic minorities, those with exceptionalities (gifted and disabled), those from economically challenged (and especially high-poverty) backgrounds, those impacted by gender biases, and those with other relevant learning or behavioral differences. To accommodate the widest range of student research interest in diversity issues there are three concentrations. Metropolitan Education Studies, Pedagogical Studies for Diverse Populations, Health Disparities within Diverse Populations.

This doctoral program is especially suited to preparing graduates with the research acumen needed to move easily into higher educational/postsecondary settings, P-12 central administration at the local, state, and national level, and leadership roles within school based settings, or non-academic positions within nonprofit organizations, specifically those with a research component. The minimum admission requirements are those of the UAB Graduate School. However, admission is highly selective, and most successful applicants have qualifications much higher than the minimum. Application packets must be complete in the Graduate School office before the applicant can be considered for the program.

Contact Information

For detailed information please visit the program website (https://www.uab.edu/education/home/graduate/phd-educational-studies-diverse-populations), or contact Dr. Andrew McKnight (anmcknit@uab.edu) (Program Director), Dr. Tondra Loder-Jackson (tlojerjack@uab.edu) (Metropolitan Education Studies Concentration Advisor), Dr. Susan Spezzini (spezzin@uab.edu) (Pedagogical Studies for Diverse Populations Concentration Advisor), or Dr. Laura Forbes (ltalbott@uab.edu) (Health Disparities within Diverse Populations Concentration Advisor).

The Ph.D. in Health Education / Health Promotion

The Ph.D. in Health Education / Health Promotion is a University of Alabama System degree jointly administered by three units: UAB School of Education, UAB School of Public Health, and UA College of Human Environmental Sciences. Students draw upon the expertise and resources of a diverse and highly qualified faculty. Graduates in the Ph.D. program develop advanced training to become leading researchers, clinicians and faculty in a variety of work settings such as universities, businesses, government agencies, and foundations. We strive to create a rigorous scholarly and supportive atmosphere for students to develop intellectually to acquire the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to be highly competent and ethical health education professionals.

This program is designed to provide students with the coursework and practical experience to become leading researchers and practitioners in Health Education and Health Promotion. Course work includes a core of courses in advanced research and statistical methods, social and behavioral sciences, and the completion of a research internship and dissertation.

For more information regarding the Health Education/Health Promotion program, visit the Health Education/Health Promotion (http://catalog.uab.edu/graduate/schoolofeducation/humanstudies/healtheducationandhealthpromotiontext) Graduate Catalog page.

Ph.D. Health Education/Health Promotion Program of Study

Students may enter the program with a master’s degree in health education, or a closely related health field. Prerequisite coursework includes Foundations of Health Education, Health Education Planning and Evaluation, and Research Design and Statistics. These requirements may be corequisite components in the program.

Students entering the program with a master’s degree may transfer appropriate coursework to this program; however, this will not reduce the number of courses required. Students will not be required to retake coursework already completed but may be required to complete prerequisites as part of their planned course of study.

A required review of student credentials prior to admission will identify strengths and needs. This review will provide students with a blueprint for their course of study and will be conducted by the program director and faculty advisor. The PhD program accepts applications in the fall for admission to the program during the subsequent fall term.

The PhD degree program will require students to complete a minimum of 73 credit hours: 43 hours of coursework, 12 hours of research internship, and 18 hours of dissertation research. Students will meet regularly with a faculty advisor to plan course enrollment. A minimum GPA of 3.50 is required.

Research and Statistics Prerequisites: Students are required to have completed the following courses (or equivalents) BEFORE enrolling in the Advanced Research and Statistical Methods Core. These are not included in the 73 hour degree total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPR 594</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Research Design 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR 596</td>
<td>Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Educational Research 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR 608</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Action Research 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; EPR 607</td>
<td>and Microcomputer Applications to Statistical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPR 609</td>
<td>Statistical Methods and Research in Education: Intermediate 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>13</td>
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The specific components of the PhD program in Health Education and Health Promotion are outlined below.

Ph.D. through the School of Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHHS 731</td>
<td>Advanced Theoretic/Scientific Basis of Health Education/Promotion 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHHS 732</td>
<td>Advanced Planning and Implementation of Health Education/Promotion Programs 3</td>
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Interdisciplinary Programs

CHHS 740 Evaluation and Research Methods in Health Education/ 3 Promotion Programs
CHHS 734 Health Education Seminar I 1
CHHS 735 Health Education Seminar II 1
CHHS 736 Health Education Seminar III 1

II. Advanced Research and Statistical Methods Core 13
EPI 610 Principles of Epidemiologic Research
EPR 696 Qualitative Research: Inquiry and Analysis
EPR 710 Computer Applications and Advanced Statistical Methods

Graduate Research Design 1
EPR 695 Survey Methods in Educational Research
or EPR 792 Mixed Methods Approaches to Educational Research

III. 600+ level Coursework in the Social and Behavioral Sciences 2 18
IV. Research Internship (Pre-requisite GRD 717) 3 12
V. Dissertation 18
CHHS 799 Dissertation Research

Total Hours 73

1 Choose one course that fits the needs of your dissertation, with the approval of an advisor. Two examples are listed, but other courses could apply.

2 Selection of courses pre-approved by doctoral program advisor to build knowledge and skills in a cognate area, e.g. Health Disparities, Research, Global Health, Public Health Policy, Aging and Health, Disabilities and Health.

3 Choose 12 hours of any variation from the following: CHHS 640 and CHHS 641, CHHS 691 and CHHS 692, CHHS 798. Students must complete the GRD 717 pre-requisite before registering in Research Internship.

Comprehensive Examination

A written comprehensive examination is required of all candidates for the Ph.D. degree. To be eligible to sit for comprehensive exams, students must have successfully completed CHHS 731, CHHS 732, and CHHS 740. Students must register for a minimum of 3.0 hours of graduate work during the semester in which the comprehensive exam is taken. The exam must be passed unconditionally before the student can defend his/her proposal and be advanced to candidacy.

To prepare, students should review all materials from listed coursework as well as other related courses and supplementary material. This exam is designed to test the student’s ability to take a given population and design an appropriate, theory-based health intervention to the situation. Each student must synthesize and apply what has been learned throughout the program. On the day of the exam, students will be given questions that require them to write a paper, describing an appropriate, theory based program to address the chosen health issue/population. This must involve thorough planning, implementation, and evaluation. A planning model (i.e. PRECEDE/PROCEED) should be used as a framework for the paper.

The Comprehensive exam will be offered twice each year and is written and graded by the graduate faculty in the doctoral program. Grading of the comprehensive exam is done blinded, and by consensus. Students who fail to achieve passing scores will have one attempt to remediate within a calendar year. If a student fails a section for the second time, they will be dismissed from the program.

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies in Diverse Populations

Requirements Hours
EDC 750 Critical Pedagogy for Diverse Populations 3
EDF 755 Educational Studies in Diverse Populations: Theory of Inquiry 3
EDF 765 Metropolitan Education Studies Proseminar 3
CHHS 742 Health Disparities in Diverse Populations 3

Research Courses
EPR 609 Statistical Methods and Research in Education: Intermediate 3
EPR 696 Qualitative Research: Inquiry and Analysis 3
EPR 710 Computer Applications and Advanced Statistical Methods 3
EPR 792 Mixed Methods Approaches to Educational Research 3
GRD 717 Principles of Scientific Integrity 3

Total Hours 27

Concentration Courses

12-36 Credits

Once the prerequisite coursework has been satisfied, you will follow an interdisciplinary program of study in one of the three concentrations:

- Pedagogical Studies
- Metropolitan Education Studies
- Health Disparities

Dissertation

24 Credits

- Dissertation Seminar: 3 credit hours
- Dissertation Research - (Prerequisite: Admission to candidacy.):
  Note: one semester with at least 6 credit hours is required
- 9 credits of directed dissertation research or additional research courses specific to intended dissertation