

EDUCATION, PHD

Banner Code: E1-PHD-EDUC

Academic Advising

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This program is designed to advance professional study to develop research-informed expertise in a selected field of professional education. As a program of doctoral study, it emphasizes theory and research as much as it does practice, breadth of study as much as depth, and process as well as knowledge. It seeks to develop both knowledge and the skills useful in educational roles as well as the abilities to analyze and respond to problems in their relationships to various educational concerns.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study. See Graduate Admissions Policies.

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Admission is highly-selective and applicants must fulfill all admission requirements: a minimum of three years of successful experience as a practitioner in an educational setting, baccalaureate and master's (or equivalent) degrees from accredited institutions, demonstrated high intellectual capability and leadership potential, three letters of recommendation and GRE general test scores including the writing assessment.

For more information, call the PhD Office at 703-993-2011. Completed applications must be submitted by January 15 for fall admission, or by October 1 for spring admission. To apply, see Graduate Admissions (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/graduate>).

Policies

For policies governing all doctoral degrees, see AP.6.10 Requirements for Doctoral Degrees.

Program of Study

A written program of study which lists all courses required to complete the program is used to verify that students have met all requirements at graduation. If changes are made in the program of study after its approval, the changes must be made in writing and submitted to the Office of the University Registrar with the Advancement to Candidacy paperwork.

Reduction of Credit

Students must have a master's degree before being admitted to the PhD. As such, admitted students will receive a reduction of 9 credits.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 75

Core Requirements

General Culture

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 800	Ways of Knowing ¹	3
or EFHP 860	Critical Perspectives in Exercise, Fitness, and Health Promotion	
Total Credits		3

¹ EFHP 860 is for Kinesiology concentration students only. Other students should select EDUC 800.

Research Methods

Code	Title	Credits
EDRS 810	Problems and Methods in Education Research	3
EDRS 811	Quantitative Methods in Educational Research	3
EDRS 812	Qualitative Methods in Educational Research	3
Select two from the following:		6
EDRS 818	Critical Discourse Analysis in Education Research	
EDRS 820	Evaluation Methods for Educational Programs and Curricula	
EDRS 821	Advanced Applications of Quantitative Methods ¹	
EDRS 822	Advanced Applications of Qualitative Methods	
EDRS 823	Advanced Research Methods in Single Subject/Case Design	
EDRS 824	Mixed Methods Research: Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches	
EDRS 825	Advanced Research Methods in Self-Study of Professional Practice	
EDRS 826	Qualitative Case Study Methods	
EDRS 827	Introduction to Measurement and Survey Development	
EDRS 828	Item Response Theory	
EDRS 830	Hierarchical Linear Modeling ¹	
EDRS 831	Structural Equation Modeling	
EDRS 832	Document Analysis and Archival Research	
EDRS 833	Participatory Action Research	
EDRS 897	Special Topics in Research Methods	
Total Credits		15

¹ Students pursuing the Kinesiology Concentration must select these course options.

Reduction of Credits

Code	Title	Credits
	Students receive a reduction of 9 credits based on their earned Master's degree.	9
Total Credits		9

Dissertation Proposal and Research Advancement to Candidacy

Upon successful completion of all coursework and the comprehensive portfolio assessment, students are advanced to candidacy and enroll in EDUC 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal (Students enrolled in the Kinesiology Concentration enroll in KINE 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal).

Dissertation

Once enrolled in EDUC 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or KINE 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, students must maintain continuous registration in at least 1 credit; once enrolled in EDUC 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research or KINE 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research, students must follow the university continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Registration.

Code	Title	Credits
Minimum 12 credits of		12
EDUC 998 or KINE 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal ¹	
EDUC 999 or KINE 999	Doctoral Dissertation Research ²	
Total Credits		12

¹ Students must register for 3 credits the first semester enrolled in EDUC 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or KINE 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal. Students preparing their proposal must register for 1 credit each semester thereafter until the proposal has been successfully defended.

² Students must register for 3 or 6 credits the first semester enrolled in EDUC 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research or KINE 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research and must register for at least 1 credit thereafter until all work has been completed including the semester in which the degree is conferred.

PhD without Concentration

All students are required to create electronic portfolios to define academic and professional goals; formulate specific plans to achieve those goals through coursework, research experiences, and field-based activities; demonstrate growth in understanding the specializations and how knowledge in them is advanced through inquiry; synthesize and reflect upon the process and results of learning activities; modify goals and plans as needed based on academic and reflective self-evaluation as well as feedback from the student's Program Advisory Committee and demonstrate readiness to proceed to the dissertation phase of the program.

The first portfolio review must be completed when 18 credits have been completed or before the end of the third semester. The second portfolio review must be scheduled at the completion of 36 credit hours. When students complete the coursework phase of the program, a final meeting is held with the Program Advisory Committee. This meeting is

the context for conducting the comprehensive portfolio assessment, a formal evaluation of a student's readiness to proceed to the dissertation phase of the program which is analogous to the traditional doctoral comprehensive exam.

Program Advisory Committee

Students choose a program advisory committee of three George Mason University faculty members prior to the end of their second semester. It is chaired by the student's major advisor who represents the student's primary specialization. One member must represent the student's secondary emphasis. The major functions of this committee include assessing the student's goals, interests and academic needs, approving the program of study, monitoring the student's progress through the program and evaluating the student's three portfolio reviews.

Primary Specialization

Professional specializations include: early childhood education, education leadership, education policy, educational psychology, higher education, international education, learning technologies design research, literacy and reading, mathematics or science education leadership, multilingual/multicultural education, research methodology, science education research, special education, and teaching and teacher education.

Code	Title	Credits
	Students select course work based on their area of specialization. They may choose EDUC 994 and EDUC 890 to broaden their professional expertise. These internships must be taken in a setting that differs from the student's work setting, and includes 100 clock hours of work.	18-24
Total Credits		18-24

Secondary Specialization

Code	Title	Credits
	Students may develop a secondary specialization from coursework offered within CEHD or coursework offered within other Mason units, in consultation with their advisor. ¹	3-18
Total Credits		3-18

¹ In some situations, students can receive a reduction of 9 additional credits from their master's toward fulfillment of the secondary specialization requirement if their master's degree area of study is not the same as their doctoral specialization area and it aligns with their program of study. Students make this decision in consultation with their program advisory committee members. Students who do not receive this additional credit reduction must take at least 12 credits in the secondary specialization area.

Concentration in Kinesiology (KNES)

Kinesiology Core

Code	Title	Credits
EFHP 810	Neuromuscular Responses to Exercise	3
EFHP 811	Motor Learning and Control	3
EFHP 813	Musculoskeletal Biomechanics in Human Movement	3
EFHP 815	Measurement Techniques and Instrumentation	3
EFHP 820	Careers in the Academy Seminar	3
EFHP 825	Data Analytics in Exercise, Fitness, and Health Promotion	3

EFHP 840	Doctoral Seminar in Exercise, Fitness, and Health Promotion	3
EFHP 880	Grant Writing	3
Total Credits		24

Experiential Learning

Code	Title	Credits
KINE 890	Research Experience I	6
KINE 891	Research Experience II	3
EDUC 897	Independent Study for the Doctor of Philosophy in Education	3
or KINE 897	Independent Study	
Total Credits		12