HIGHER EDUCATION, PH.D.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The Ph.D. program in higher education is designed for individuals primarily interested in the scholarly inquiry and/or teaching of higher education as a field of study. The Ph.D. in higher education is particularly appropriate to the following careers:

- Academic and research positions in graduate instructional programs of higher education, higher education institutes and centers for the study of higher education;
- Applied and management research positions in institutions of higher learning, government agencies, consortia of higher education institutions and higher education professional associations; and
- Senior administrative positions in four-year colleges and universities where in-depth knowledge and understanding of the conceptual bases of higher education administration are required.

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the doctoral program in Higher Education should apply for either the Ed.D. or Ph.D. program depending on their academic preparation, prior experience, and career goals. Both doctoral programs offered in higher education enable students to acquire knowledge about and evaluate major organizational, behavioral and learning theories applicable to higher education; to conduct applied and/or original research in the field of higher education; to become familiar with past, present and emerging patterns of organization and professional administrative practice in higher education; and to observe and participate in the actual practice of higher education administration and/or research. However, the two programs differ significantly in length and emphasis and in course work, research tool, minor field, and dissertation requirements.

Admission to the doctoral program is selective. Students seeking admission to the doctoral program in Higher Education should submit the following items online to the UNT Toulouse Graduate School:

1. UNT Toulouse Graduate School application form;
2. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended;
3. Official GRE or GMAT scores no older than five years;
4. Three recommendation forms, including at least one from a faculty member with whom the student has studied or conducted research (please contact the Higher Education Program office for recommendation form);
5. A curriculum vitae or resume;
6. An admission essay (i.e., statement of purpose); and
7. A sample of the applicant's best recent written work in the form of a published article or book chapter, a research term paper, master's thesis, or a professional report for which the applicant is the sole or primary author.

All the admission documentation must be submitted online to the UNT Toulouse Graduate School. GRE or GMAT scores must be submitted directly from the testing agency.
In addition to the minimum requirements of the College of Education listed under the “Admission Requirements” heading in the appropriate section of the UNT graduate catalog, admission to the Ed.D. or Ph.D. program in higher education is contingent upon the following:

1. An acceptable GPA (The successful candidate for admission will normally have an overall GPA of 3.6 or higher from a graduate degree program (based on a 4.0 grading system);
2. GRE or GMAT scores;
3. The quality and relevance of the applicant’s prior undergraduate and graduate work;
4. The quantity and relevance of the applicant’s prior work experience in higher education administration, teaching, and/or research;
5. The clarity and fit of the applicant’s career objectives;
6. The strength of the professional/educational references;
7. The quality of the admission essay and writing sample; and
8. An interview with program faculty.

There is an application deadline for each semester. Contact the program office for deadline dates. After review of the completed application packet, eligible applicants will be invited to interview with program faculty. For additional information, prospective students should contact the Higher Education Program office at 940-565-2045 or e-mail coe-che-info@unt.edu

**Degree Requirements**

The Ph.D. in Higher Education requires a minimum 72 hours (66 hours if the internship requirement is waived) beyond the master’s degree or 102 (96 hours if the internship requirement is waived) hours beyond the bachelor’s degree.

**Higher Education Doctoral Core** ........................................................................................................................................................................ 18 hours

Provides the student with a broad overview and integrated perspective of higher education as a field of study and academic enterprise:

EDHE 6000  Proseminar in Higher Education (this course must be completed in the first year of the doctoral study)
EDHE 6510  History and Philosophy of Higher Education
EDHE 6520  Students in Higher Education
EDHE 6550  Policy Studies in Higher Education
EDHE 6710  Organization and Administration of Higher Education
EDHE 6790  Legal Aspects of Higher Education
Minor or Cognate Area
The student completes a minor of at least 12 semester hours from courses outside the Program of Higher Education, or a cognate field of 12 semester hours in an area of specialization in higher education. The student must work with his or her major professor to select the minor or cognate area.

Higher Education Elective Course Requirements
Courses are to be selected from the program’s course inventory and should enable the student to gain either a broader exposure to the various specializations in higher education or an in-depth knowledge of one particular area of specialization.

Internship
An administrative, research, and/or teaching internship of 6 semester hours is required of all doctoral students. Internship may be waived for students who have been employed in a full-time administrative position, or a teaching or research position in an institution, agency, or association of higher education for at least one academic year, or the equivalent as determined by the higher education faculty. Administrative internships consist of at least 120 clock hours of closely supervised administrative work per 3 semester hours of credit and culminate with a written report of the internship experience. Research internships require the close supervision of the student’s research project by a graduate faculty member of the university and culminate in a publishable or presentable research paper. Teaching internships consist of at least 40 hours of supervised teaching per 3 semester hours of credit and culminate with a portfolio documenting the experience.

College of Education Research Core
The College of Education requires that each doctoral student complete

EPSY 6010    Statistics for Educational Research*
EPSY 6020    Research Methods in Education

*Students who have not taken a master’s level research course may need to take EPSY 5210 Educational Statistics to meet the prerequisite for EPSY 6010. EPSY 5210 is not counted toward the degree.

Higher Education Research Requirement
Each Ph.D. candidate must be competent in the modes of scholarly inquiry common to the major field of study. The higher education program requires Ph.D. students to complete 6 hours of Higher Education Program Research Core and 9 hours of advanced quantitative or qualitative research methodology beyond EPSY 6010 and EPSY 6020.

Higher Education Program Research Core (6 hours)
Higher Education Program research core consists of a series of two courses that must take in sequence and in consecutive semesters. This series is designed to help students strengthen their skills in conducting higher education research and in preparing for doctoral dissertation research. Prerequisites include College of Education research core (EPSY 6010 and EPSY 6020) and 30 hours completed in the higher education program.
EDHE 6120  Seminar in Higher Education Research I
EDHE 6540  Seminar in Higher Education Research II

**Advanced Research Methodology (9 hours)**
Ph.D. students are required to take at least 9 hours of advanced quantitative or qualitative research coursework beyond EPSY 6010 and EPSY 6020. Students must work with their major professor to select courses that will equip them for dissertation research.

**Dissertation Research Requirement**
The principal goal of the Ph.D. dissertation is the demonstration of the student’s ability to conduct independent research. The research design must be congruent with the modes of inquiry used in conducting research on higher education and must be a report of independent research with a strong theoretical foundation. Moreover, the dissertation must be of publishable quality. No dissertation enrollment is permitted until the student passes the doctoral qualifying exam. Only 9 semester hours of dissertation credit are applied to the degree program, even though more dissertation hours may be accumulated. Please check university policy on the requirement of continuous enrollment.

**Doctoral Dissertation Committee**
Each Ph.D. student must select a dissertation committee prior to taking the doctoral qualifying exam. The dissertation committee consists of a minimum of three members including one major professor and two committee members. All must be UNT faculty. The major professor and at least one of the committee members must be faculty of the Program of Higher Education. The third member may be a graduate faculty member from any appropriate UNT academic discipline. It is recommended that the third member of the supervisory committee be from the student’s minor/cognate area. A qualified non-UNT committee member may be added as the fourth committee member.

**Additional Requirements**

**Minimum Grade Requirement**
All courses required and used toward the doctoral degree in Higher Education must be passed with a grade of “B” or better.

**Residency Requirement**
All doctoral students at UNT are required to complete the residency requirement prior to taking Doctoral Qualifying Exam. The residency requirement consists of two consecutive semesters at UNT with a minimum of 9 graduate hours in each term or three consecutive semesters with a minimum of 6 graduate hours in each term. The summer semester may be excluded for the purpose of determining consecutive semesters.

**Doctoral Qualifying Exam**
Students who have met the residency requirement and completed all coursework on the degree plan (exclusive of dissertation) with a grade of B or better will be allowed to take the doctoral qualifying exam. Students who have
met the residency requirement and are in the last 9 hours or less of coursework (exclusive of dissertation) and will complete these hours in the current semester may take the doctoral qualifying exam with permission from the major professor. The Higher Education Program doctoral qualifying exam includes written and oral components. Students who fail any part of the exam twice will be automatically dismissed from the program. Students who pass the doctoral qualifying exam are admitted to candidacy.

**Minimum Total for Ph.D.**

66-72 hours