The doctoral program is designed to prepare students for successful professional careers in diverse higher education settings, including public and private colleges and universities, government agencies, and professional associations. The doctoral program focuses on Administration and Policy Analysis.

- Currently employed at a college or university.
- A completed College of Graduate Studies admissions form.
- A baccalaureate degree granted by an accredited institution, with a minimum GPA of 2.7 preferred.
- A master’s degree granted by an accredited institution, with a minimum GPA of 3.25.
- Official transcripts from all previous higher education institutions attended.
- A letter indicating the applicant’s commitment to pursuing a career in the field of higher education, and a description of the applicant’s potential research topic for dissertation study.
- A 1,000-word essay that discusses the most critical issue facing higher education today, the reasons for choosing this issue, and the implications of the issue for the future of higher education.
- Two letters of reference, including at least one from a faculty member who can speak to the ability of the applicant to conduct research and to write at the graduate level.
- A current resume or curriculum vitae.

A minimum of 61 hours beyond the master’s degree is required.

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
**Required Courses**
HED 8030 | Federal And State Policy Analysis | 3
HED 8530 | Theories Of Student Development | 3
HED 8570 | Research In Higher Education | 3
HED 8640 | Governance And Administration In Higher Education | 3
or HED 7980 | Special Topics In Higher Education | 3
HED 8700 | Finance Of Higher Education | 3
HED 8770 | Evaluation And Outcomes Assessment In Higher Education | 3
HED 8850 | Critical Issues In Higher Education | 3
HED 8790 | Managing College And University Personnel | 3
HED 8730 | Legal Aspects Of Higher Education | 3
HED 8120 | International Education | 3

### Elective Courses
Select six hours of HED courses

### Higher Education Requirement
HED 8010 | History Of Higher Education (or TSOC Requirement) | 3

### Research Methods Requirement
RESM 8120 | Quantitative Methods II | 3
HED 8910 | Introduction to Interpretive Inquiry | 3

In addition, each doctoral student is expected to:

- Concentrate in the area of specialization (i.e. a major) and pass a written examination (major examination) in the major area of concentration;
- Demonstrate proficiency in tools of research;
- Pass the written major examination and pass an oral examination that covers the relevant coursework;
- Orally present and defend a dissertation proposal in a public forum;
- Orally present and defend a completed dissertation in a public forum.

### Academic Advising Committee
The student is assigned an initial advisor upon admission to a program. This advisor guides the student in forming a doctoral program committee.

The doctoral program committee shall be formed before the student completes 18 hours of credit. The doctoral program committee has a minimum of three members, at least two of which must be members of the Higher Education Program, who are selected from the membership of the graduate faculty of the University. The doctoral program committee is responsible for assisting the student in the development of a plan of study and assuring competence by overseeing the doctoral major exam, and the doctoral program oral.

The plan of study must be approved by the doctoral program committee, the department chairperson, and the associate dean of the college. The plan of study must be filed before 18 semester hours of the doctoral program are completed. After completion of the academic requirements, the student must form a dissertation committee to guide the development of the dissertation.

### Dissertation
The dissertation committee must include a minimum of four graduate faculty members, and one who is not in the discipline major. Members of the dissertation committee may also be members of the doctoral program committee. The student must work closely with the committee to develop a research proposal for the dissertation. Once the committee approves the research design, the student must obtain Institutional Research Board approval before beginning the research study. A public, oral defense of the dissertation proposal and the completed dissertation is required.