EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, PHD: LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

This graduate-level program emphasizes the perspective of the learner and trains students to conduct cutting-edge research applied to a broad range of learning contexts — from schools to museums to home — throughout the human lifespan. Students in the L&D program can pursue a master’s or doctoral degree in Educational Psychology while working closely with one of our faculty members (http://uwm.edu/education/academics/learning-development/#a1).

Graduates of the MS program go on to pursue a PhD (often in Educational Psychology or a related field) or find jobs in education and/or research settings in the private or public sectors. Many graduates of our PhD program pursue careers at research institutes and universities.

Educational Psychology PhD
The goal of the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology is to prepare psychologists, researchers and educational professionals to effectively work on the unique challenges of promoting education, learning, and mental health in urban environments. The four areas of emphasis in the doctoral program are:

- Counseling Psychology
- Learning and Development
- Educational Statistics and Measurement
- School Psychology

See the Educational Psychology Website (https://uwm.edu/education/academics/educational-psychology-department) for more information on these areas.

The Counseling Psychology and School Psychology specializations at the master’s and doctoral level are accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines).

Admission
To be considered for admission to the program applicants must complete the Graduate School online application, and satisfy all UWM Graduate School admission requirements in addition to the following program requirements:

- Submission of scores on the General Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre); test taken within last five years.
- Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0; graduate GPA of at least 3.5 required.
- A letter outlining the applicant’s academic and professional background, declaration of Area of Concentration (Counseling Psychology, Learning and Development, Educational Statistics and Measurement, or School Psychology) as well as specific research interests and goals for the PhD program.
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant’s intellectual achievement and potential.

A master’s degree is not required for admission. However, it is recommended that students seeking admission to the Learning and Development area have a master’s degree in educational psychology that includes a thesis or master’s paper derived from empirical research before admission. Students with a master’s degree and no thesis or master’s paper must complete an equivalency paper prior to taking their preliminary exams (see other requirements below).

Credits and Courses

Core Educational Psychology Requirements
All doctoral students are required to complete 36 core credits in the areas of Psychological Foundations, Urban Foundations, and Research Methods. In many cases, students entering with a Master’s degree will have completed some of these courses. Courses taken during Master’s preparation may be counted in meeting the core requirements. Elective credits are taken in consultation with the major professor.

Psychological Foundations Core: Students must take 12 credits minimum of psychological foundations (social, cognitive, affective, or biological basis of behavior); students without Ed Psy 631 and Ed Psy 640 must take these courses as part of their 12-credit minimum.

Urban Foundations: 3 credits minimum.

Research Methods Core: 15 credits

All doctoral students must show documentation that they have acquired research skills needed for dissertation work. To fulfill this requirement students must successfully complete 13 credits of coursework in the area of research methods at the 700 level or above, including ED PSY 724 and six credits at the 800 level or above. Students should consult the specific requirements for their area of specialization for additional requirements, as the requirements for each area of specialization may exceed those specified here.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ED PSY 631</td>
<td>Cognition: Learning, Problem Solving and Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSY 640</td>
<td>Human Development: Theory and Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Select two of the following:</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSY 734</td>
<td>Contextual Determinants of Motivation</td>
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<td>ED PSY 735</td>
<td>Social Cognition in Educational Psychology</td>
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<td>ED PSY 741</td>
<td>Cognitive Development</td>
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<td>ED PSY 742</td>
<td>Personality Theories and the Educational Process</td>
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<td>ED PSY 743</td>
<td>Human Development: Study of Infancy and Early Childhood</td>
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<td>ED PSY 746</td>
<td>Human Development: Study of the Adolescent</td>
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<td>ED PSY 747</td>
<td>Human Development: Study of the Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED PSY 748</td>
<td>Oral Language, Cognition, and Literacy</td>
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Core Concentration Requirements
All students must complete core courses in their area of concentration. Minimum credit requirements vary with the area of concentration due to accreditation and certification requirements.

Other Requirements
In addition to the requirements listed below, please refer to the program handbook for each concentration.

Students Entering Without a Master’s
For the Counseling Psychology concentration, students entering without a Master’s degree in Counseling must also complete the following in order to meet accreditation/certification requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNS 710</td>
<td>Counseling: Theory and Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNS 711</td>
<td>Foundations in Career Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNS 714</td>
<td>Essentials of Counseling Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNS 715</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNS 800</td>
<td>Group Counseling Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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Program Requirements

Advising and the Major Professor
Upon admission to the doctoral program in Educational Psychology, students are assigned a temporary advisor in their area of emphasis (e.g., Counseling Psychology, Learning and Development, Educational Statistics and Measurement, or School Psychology). This person is available to discuss initial course selection and provide general advice about the program. After beginning the program and before filing a Student Academic Plan, students should seek a Major Professor. The permanent Major Professor may—but does not have to be—the same person who is the temporary advisor. Students must select an advisor in their area of emphasis. Selection of a Major Professor is by mutual consent between the student and the faculty member. Students should
notify the Training Director within their emphasis when the Major Professor has been selected.

**Residence**
The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence requirements [here](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/doctoral-requirements/#residence) of one continuous academic year of full-time graduate studies at UWM. This can be satisfied by completing at least 8 graduate credits in each of two consecutive semesters, or 6 or more graduate credits in each of three consecutive semesters, exclusive of summer sessions. Residence credit cannot be earned at the master’s level.

**Practicum**
Students in the Counseling Psychology and School Psychology concentrations are required to complete practicum requirements to become licensed.

**Internship**
Following Practicum, students in the Counseling Psychology and School Psychology concentrations are required to complete a year-long internship in order to be licensed.

**Publishable Paper**
Students are required to work with faculty to have a “publishable” paper within 30 credits of admission to the doctoral program. This may be their master’s theses and/or master’s papers, where original research is generated or a critical review of research is developed. It may also be a collaborative effort, such as publishing a chapter or article with a faculty advisor or other faculty collaborator.

**Minor**
Counseling Psychology and School Psychology students must complete 9 credits in the Department of Psychology. The minor will be optional for students in Learning & Development and Educational Statistics and Measurement, based on consultation with an advisor.

**Doctoral Preliminary Examination**
The Doctoral Preliminary Examination is taken at the end of a student’s coursework. A description of the Preliminary Examination is provided in the doctoral handbook corresponding to the student’s specialization area within Educational Psychology.

The Preliminary Examination consists of a written component and, in some specializations, an oral component. The purpose of the Preliminary Examination is to determine whether the student demonstrates understanding of coursework and related bodies of knowledge and is qualified to proceed with dissertation planning. A minimum of three faculty members in the specialization area shall participate on a student’s Preliminary Examination.

**Proposal Hearing**
A doctoral student qualifies as a “doctoral candidate” upon completion of the doctoral Student Academic Plan, successful completion of the Doctoral Preliminary Examination for the PhD degree, and successfully passing a dissertation proposal hearing. The hearing is open and the date, time and location must be announced by the Doctoral Coordinator. Each member of the committee must sign the doctoral dissertation proposal hearing form, and indicate approval or disapproval. A simple majority of all committee members is required. No absentee ballots are acceptable.

**Dissertation Defense**
The candidate must write a dissertation that demonstrates the ability to pursue independent research. The candidate must pass an oral exam in defense of the dissertation.

**Exit Requirements**
Contingent upon satisfactory completion of program requirements, passage of the preliminary qualifying examination, and successful oral defense of the dissertation, the Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology will give final approval of the PhD in Educational Psychology.

**Time Limit**
It is expected that most students will complete all degree requirements within six years of initial enrollment in the doctoral program. All requirements MUST be completed within ten years from the date of initial enrollment.

See Learning and Development [here](https://uwm.edu/education/academics/learning-development) for more information.