Cooperating Departments

- Administrative Leadership
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Educational Policy and Community Studies
- Educational Psychology
- Exceptional Education
- Information Studies (School of)

Application Deadlines

If at any time you are unsure about a published date or deadline (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines), call the Registrar’s Office at (414) 229-3800 or submit a contact form (http://uwm.edu/registrat/contact-us) online.

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements plus the following program requirements to be considered for admission.

Graduate Record Examination

Submission of scores on the General Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination is required. Scores that are more than five years old will not be considered valid.

Grade Point Average

Undergraduate GPA of 2.85 (applicants having less than 15 graduate hours must have an undergraduate GPA of 3.50), graduate GPA of 3.5, or a combined (undergraduate and graduate) GPA of 6.5.

Writing Sample

Applicants must submit a writing sample completed within the last five years. The writing sample must be single authored, at least 1500 words, and must be selected from one of the following options:

1. Master’s Thesis
2. Undergraduate Senior Thesis
3. Technical report
4. Term Paper
5. Publication
6. Written Description of a Project
7. Action Research Project
8. A 5-10 page response to the following question: How would you go about determining and evaluating critical issues in urban education?
   The response to this question must show evidence of appropriate references to a knowledge base.

The writing sample must be submitted with the application.

Interview

An interview may be arranged with all applicants. In the case of applicants living too far away to attend a personal interview, a phone interview will be arranged.

Recommendations

An applicant must have a minimum of three appropriate persons write a recommendation and comment meaningfully and knowledgeably on the likelihood that the applicant can successfully complete an advanced scholarly program of studies for the PhD degree. It is helpful if the majority of references are written by college/university faculty. If an applicant is unable to secure academic references because of elapsed time, other references should be as current as possible. In any case, individuals preparing references should be selected who can comment with confidence on the applicant’s academic qualifications. Reference forms must be forwarded directly by the writers to the Office of Doctoral
Studies. Complete information is provided in application materials available from the Office of Doctoral Studies.

**Application**

Applicants are required to articulate their urban and research interests and goals in application materials. An intended concentration within the PhD must be specified at time of application.

1. Applicants who fail to satisfy these admission requirements will not be recommended for admission. However, satisfying these minima does not guarantee admission.
2. Applicants who are not recommended for admission will be provided an opportunity to request a reconsideration.

Individual specializations may expect prior coursework in that area. Applicants may contact the Director for specific information. Openings in the program are limited. Applicants should submit all application materials no later than January 1 for admission the following September. Applicants must contact the Office of Doctoral Studies for application information and forms.

**Major Professor**

Upon admission to the doctoral program, the student is assigned an initial advisor from his or her intended specialization. This person is available to discuss initial course selection and provide general advice about the program and specialization. After beginning the program and before filing a Program of Studies, the student will seek a permanent major professor from his/her specialization who is eligible to serve in such a capacity. This permanent advisor may be the initial advisor if the student desires. The major professor is also chair of the student's dissertation committee.

Selection of the major professor is by mutual consent between the student and the faculty member. The student must notify the UEDP in writing when the major professor has been selected.

**Credits and Courses**

Minimum degree requirement is 54 credits beyond the bachelor's degree (although students ordinarily take more than 54), at least 27 of which must be earned in residence at UWM (i.e., on the UWM campus).

In consultation with the major professor, the student designs a program of studies that enables the student to gain the knowledge and skills appropriate to the student's goals.

The program of studies includes the following:

**The Doctoral Seminars**

All doctoral students must take three 3-credit seminar courses devoted to content involving education in an urban environment. One of these seminars is taken as part of the department specialization.

**Research Requirement**

1. All doctoral students must take ED PSY 724 (prerequisite is ED PSY 624) and CURRINS 729/AD LDSP 729.
2. All doctoral students select additional advanced level (800 or above) coursework (minimum 6 credits) from either a qualitative track or quantitative track.
3. All doctoral students must take a research design course approved by their advisor and the Director of Doctoral Studies.
4. Department specialization requirements may exceed those specified here.
5. All students demonstrate knowledge in this area by writing a preliminary examination research question and successfully defending a dissertation.

**Designated Specialization**

Students indicate a specific area of specialization, by applying for one of the transcript-designated specializations in either Adult, Continuing, and Higher Education Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Art Education, Exceptional Education, Multicultural Studies, or Social Foundations of Education. Students may be required to meet the specific admissions and program requirements for their intended specialization in addition to meeting the PhD admissions and program requirements. (Please see the accompanying explanation and requirements for each specialization.)

**Minor**

Some program specializations may require completion of a minor consisting of courses in a related discipline that supports the student's program of studies. Students should consult requirements within their specialization. If pursuing a minor, the student may choose either Option A or Option B.

1. **Option A:** A minimum of 8 credits in a single department outside the School of Education. A minor professor approves these courses, sits as a member of the student's doctoral committee, and contributes to the student's doctoral preliminary examination.
2. **Option B:** A minimum of 12 credits in two or more departments, with a minimum of 6 credits outside of the School of Education. The remaining credits may be taken within the School of Education, but must be taken outside of the department of specialization.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

There is no foreign language requirement. However, individual students may be required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language if such proficiency is determined to be necessary by a student’s committee.

**Residence**

The residency requirement is satisfied through the successful completion of 9 or more credits in each of two consecutive semesters, excluding summer, or by completing at least 6 graduate credits in each of three consecutive semesters, excluding summer.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the Office of Doctoral Studies when residency requirements have been met. Such notification must be in writing and must include the semesters, year(s) and number of credits taken during each of the applicable semesters.

**Doctoral Preliminary Examination**

The student must pass a doctoral preliminary examination to qualify for formal admission to candidacy for the degree. The examination covers the area of specialization, urban education, the minor, and research methods.

**Dissertation**

The candidate must present a dissertation reporting the results of an original research study appropriate to the student's program. Prior to beginning the research, the candidate must present an acceptable dissertation proposal and defend it at an oral hearing.
Dissertation Defense
The candidate must, as the final step toward the degree, pass an oral examination in defense of the dissertation.

Time Limit
Students who do not complete all degree requirements within seven years from the date of admission to the doctoral program will be recommended for dismissal to the Graduate School.

Other Requirements
This is only a summary of the doctoral program requirements. A complete list of requirements is available from the Office of Doctoral Studies. Doctoral Committees may specify course requirements which exceed the minima described here.

For additional information on the PhD, see the Graduate School Doctoral Requirements (http://wwwdev.uwm.edu/graduateschool/doctoral-requirements).