The doctoral program in higher education is designed for students who plan to be faculty members, university or college administrators, public policy analysts, and institutional researchers. Since the PhD is a research degree, the core objective of our program is to prepare professionals to conduct research and scholarship on many dimensions of higher education. Our program features small courses, hands-on research training, and individual mentoring by faculty. Students tend to be enrolled full-time, and can complete the program in four years.

Course Requirements

The higher education program’s core curriculum encourages students to look to a variety of the social sciences (e.g., economics, political science, sociology, social psychology, organizational studies) for theoretical frameworks and research methods. To this end, doctoral students obtain a minor in a related discipline or interdisciplinary area and often pursue a master’s degree in that field concurrently with the doctoral degree.

The higher education doctoral program is formally designated as a concentration within the PhD program in Administration and Policy Analysis (APA), which aims to produce leaders who will influence the nature of educational organizations. It prepares scholars, administrators, and policy analysts for these roles by developing the characteristics of educational leaders: the knowledge base to understand the societal and economic forces affecting complex organizations; the ability to question, analyze, and develop creative solutions to policy and operating problems; and the determination to make decisions in the face of conflict and ambiguity. As a result, higher education students gain insight into connections with K-12 education.

Higher education students take required courses for both APA and higher education. Working with faculty advisors, students have flexibility to tailor course selections to their needs and aspirations. Variations occur in APA students’ choices of institutional focus (higher education, elementary or secondary schools, state or federal agencies); intended role (research, policy analysis, or administration); and disciplinary approach (sociology, economics, political science, etc.).

I. APA Core Courses

APA doctoral students are required to take one course in each of four core areas. The concentrations reflect major disciplinary and policy perspectives at the core of APA. The four-course requirement balances the need for students to acquire an understanding of these perspectives with the need for flexibility given students’ varied backgrounds and aspirations. This core requirement should be considered a minimum core beyond which advisors will work with their students to obtain depth in specializations. Students can select additional courses in each of these four concentrations as well as in other concentrations of interest. Specialization is also achieved through the minor (or MA).

This is a preliminary list of courses identified in June, 2003. We will revise it periodically.

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<th>Economics</th>
<th>Sociology/Organizations</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>History</th>
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<tr>
<td>220a</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>220b</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>306a</td>
<td>220c</td>
<td>221a/b</td>
<td>220d</td>
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<td>347</td>
<td>375a</td>
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<td>265</td>
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**APA doctoral students are also required to take courses that provide research skills:**
- Ed 331A and B  
  Research Seminar
- Ed 423A  
  Introduction to Research Design: Educational Administration and Policy Analysis
- Statistics  
  Consult Advisor (2 Quarters)

II. Higher Education Core Courses

*In addition to the above APA core courses, the Higher Education PhD concentration requires:*
- Ed 346  
  Research Seminar in Higher Education
- Ed 384  
  Advanced Topics in Higher Education

*one course from either:*
- Ed 381x  
  Multiculturalism in Higher Education
- Ed 382x  
  Student Development and the Study of College Impact
and two electives from the following:

Ed 265  History of Higher Education  
Ed 273  Gender and Higher Education  
Ed 347  Economics of Higher Education  
Ed 348  Comparative Higher Education Reform  
Ed 349  Accountability and Higher Education  
Ed 355x  Higher Education and Society (Cross-listed as Soc 355)  
Ed 357x  Interdisciplinarity in Higher Education  
Ed 417x  Research and Policy on Postsecondary Access  
Ed 418  Field Research in Higher Education  
Ed DiR  Community College as Agent for Educational Equity

strongly recommended, but not required, further courses in organizational theory, such as:

Ed 375A  Seminar on Organizational Theory  
Ed 375B  Seminar on Organizations: Theory and Applications  
Ed 378  Topics in Organizational Adaptation

Faculty

Stanford professors who teach in the program are engaged in a variety of research projects. Ongoing projects include: organizational restructuring and institutional change in public colleges and universities; policy alignment and student transitions in the K-16 system; the impact of diversity on college student outcomes; and peer group influence on multicultural campuses. Higher Education faculty also conduct research and offer courses through a number of interdisciplinary programs at Stanford, including Feminist Studies and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity.

Research Opportunities

Faculty projects within and beyond the Stanford Institute for Higher Education Research offer doctoral students the opportunity to conduct research and work closely with well-known scholars, as do collaborations with local research organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For a list of SIHER research projects, see http://siher.stanford.edu and http://ncpi.stanford.edu.

Admissions

Admission to the PhD program is highly selective. Those applicants with impeccable academic credentials and relevant professional experience fare best in the admission process. We recommend that students visit the campus once they have been offered admission.

For Further Program Information, see http://ed.stanford.edu/suse/programs-degrees/program-apa.html

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