

[Emphasis - Early Childhood Education](#)

- [Ph.D. in Education](#)
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Ph.D. in Education **Minimum Total Credit Hours: 69** **Emphasis - Early Childhood Education** **Description**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in education with an emphasis in early childhood education is 69 hours above the master's/specialist's degree(s). Candidates in the program acquire deeper and broader skills and knowledge of the field of early childhood education. Doctoral-level classes emphasize current research-based theories and practice designed to prepare candidates for leadership positions in special education.

Doctoral degree graduates complete a program of study that requires a minimum of 69 graduate hours of coursework post master's/specialist's degree(s), which includes 18 hours of dissertation. Each doctoral candidate will successfully complete and defend a written comprehensive examination and a dissertation representing independent and original research.

Course Requirements

Below is a listing of the courses to complete in order to satisfy the degree plan in the early childhood education Ph.D. program. The courses are organized here to convey thematic categories within the degree program rather than to reflect the chronological order or exactly how they will be grouped when listed on the Department of Teacher Education advising forms or website. More information on each course is available through the course listings in the Graduate Catalog. The degree program requires at least 69 hours of coursework.

Professional Core (18 hours)

- Edfd 609-The Cultural Context of Education
- Edfd 707-The Professional Philosophy: Foundations of Educational Epistemology
- Edrs 701-Educational Statistics II
- Edrs 704-Intro to Qualitative Research Methods
- Edrs 705-Advanced Quantitative Research Methods OR Edrs 706-Applied Qualitative Research Methods
- Edrs 733-Special Topics (either Quantitative or Qualitative)

Professional Competencies (9 hours)

- Edci 705-Directed Studies: Professional Competency College Teaching
- Edci 702-Directed Studies: Professional Competency Collaborative Research
- Edci 706-Directed Studies: Professional Competency Collaborative Writing

Doctoral Seminar and Internship (6 hours)

- Edci 700-Doctoral Seminar I (Research Review, Literature Review Procedures, CV)
- Edci 790-Doctoral Seminar II (Job Search, Job Interviews, Grant Writing)

Specialization (18 hours)

Candidates will work closely with their academic advisers to select specialized courses that align with the candidates' professional and academic goals.

