

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION, EDUCATION POLICY CONCENTRATION

The education policy concentration is designed to foster the methodological and problem-solving skills that are needed to systematically address complex and multi-faceted education issues. Students develop expertise in examining and assessing education problems and their interaction with their broader social environments. The program relies on interdisciplinary paradigms and methodological tools (including public policy, economics, sociology, political science, and psychology) to train students in evidence-based problem-solving research that informs policy and practice working for think tanks, academic institutions, and beyond. The program's flexible curriculum and partnerships collectively afford students an enriching learning environment.

Visit the program website (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/phd-edu-policy/>) for additional information.

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 60 credits, including 36 credits in core courses, and 24 credits in the concentration, successful completion of a second-year research project, successful completion of the comprehensive examination; oral defense of both the dissertation proposal and the dissertation.

Requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/#doctoraltext>) program.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
Core courses		
SEHD 8200	Foundations of Education I	
SEHD 8201	Foundations of Education II	
SEHD 8100	Special Topics (taken twice for a total of 6 credits)	
Research methods		
12 credits of doctoral-level research methods coursework, selected in consultation with advisor. At least one course must be in quantitative research methods and one in qualitative research methods.		
Dissertation		
SEHD 8999	Dissertation Research (taken for at least 12 credits)	
Additional requirements		

Successful completion of second-year research project.

Successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

Oral defense of both the dissertation proposal and the dissertation.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Education policy concentration requirements</b>		
EDUC 8321	Economics of Education	
EDUC 8322	Education Policy Implementation	
18 additional credits in graduate-level courses determined in consultation with the advisor. Course selections are determined by the focus of the concentration and the specific interests of the student.		

## DOCTORAL PROGRAM LEVEL B COURSES

### Doctoral Program Level B Courses

GSEHD's Level B research methods courses are advanced courses in a specific research methodology. All GSEHD doctoral students are required to take at least one Level B course in the methodology of their dissertation. The courses listed below are approved to meet this requirement. EDUC 8120 Group Comparison Designs and Analyses, and EDUC 8122 Qualitative Research Methods, must be completed before enrolling in a Level B course.

Some programs require more than one Level B course. Some Level B courses are taken in a predetermined sequence; for this reason, students should check each course description for prerequisites, as courses in the sequence build on others. More information regarding the Level B course sequence is available in the GSEHD Doctoral Student Handbook; (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/student-services/>) students also may consult their faculty advisor or research methods faculty (<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/directory/>) for additional guidance.

Code	Title	Credits
EDUC 8100	Experimental Courses (Mixed Methods Research)	
EDUC 8130	Survey Research Methods	
EDUC 8131	Case Study Research Methods	
EDUC 8140	Ethnographic Research Methods	
EDUC 8142	Phenomenological Research Methods	
EDUC 8144	Discourse Analysis	
EDUC 8147	Critical Methodologies in Educational Research	

EDUC 8148	Qualitative Data Collection
EDUC 8149	Qualitative Data Analysis
EDUC 8170	Educational Measurement
EDUC 8171	Predictive Designs and Analyses
EDUC 8172	Multivariate Analysis
EDUC 8173	Structural Equation Modeling
EDUC 8174	Hierarchical Linear Modeling
EDUC 8175	Item Response Theory
EDUC 8177	Assessment Engineering