

The General Design and Requirements of the Ph.D. Program in Higher Education

Beyond six core content and methods courses, the overall program of study is individualized to the interests of each PhD student, and it is developed in collaboration with and approved by their faculty advisor.

The degree requires **63 units/credits total**, which includes **54** units plus another **9** units in a minor:

18 units of core (see below) + **18** units of electives + **18** dissertation units = **54** units¹

(A minimum of 18 of the course units must be in HED courses).

Students may transfer classes from their graduate program, upon approval from the student's advisor. If students have completed their master's degree in Higher Education at the University of Arizona, they may transfer in up to *four* classes from the program. If students have completed their master's degree elsewhere, they may transfer in up to *three* classes. If students have taken courses with non-degree status, those are counted as part of the program, but they do not reduce the number of units that can be transferred in from other programs (students can take up to 12 units as a non-degree student).²

Every PhD student should take three core substantive courses and three core methods courses. The strong preference is that students take these with HED faculty, but exceptions can be made with the approval of the student's advisor.

Core content/substantive courses (9 credits)

1. HED 601 Higher Education in the United States
2. HED 609 Organization and Administration in Higher Education
3. HED 619: Higher Education Across the World **OR**
HED 628 Theories of Inequality, Oppression, and Social Stratification **OR**
HED 636 College Access and Success **OR**
HED 642: Gender and Education

*Note: Substitutions that make sense (including **HED 650 Finance/Enrollment Management**) can be made for #3*

Core methods courses (9 credits)

1. HED 611 Quantitative Methods (Statistical Analysis in Higher Education)
2. HED 605 Qualitative Methods in Higher Education
3. HED 602 Research Design

*Note: Students are strongly advised to take *Quant Methods and Research Design* from Higher Ed faculty.*

Electives

18 credits or more, which can be taken in Higher Education, or in other programs and departments in the College of Education or the University.

Minor (typically 9 units, sometimes more for formal minors outside the program)

Minors are individualized to the interests of the student, in consultation with and approved by the student's advisor. Sometimes, the minor is taken in other programs, departments, or colleges at the university, but many students do a Higher Education minor. If a minor in Higher Ed is chosen, students will consult with their advisor to select classes that reflect a sub-area of expertise. If a student minors in another department, *they are subject to the requirements of that department for courses and for comprehensive exams*. Requirements for the minor, including specific courses, are strictly at the discretion of the minor advisor(s) and department.

¹ Students should consult the Graduate College website <https://grad.arizona.edu/gsas/degree-requirements/doctor-philosophy> for additional University requirements.

² Please note, our transfer maximum is much LESS THAN the Grad College maximum of 30 units. Credits applied to the PhD are strongly advised to be completed within 10 years of the time that the degree is completed.