New Program Requirements for the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

In effect for students who began their studies in the fall semester of 2012 or after.

Milestones in the Ph.D. program have been revised to provide students more timely feedback on their progress, as well as to be sure they are well-prepared for the challenges of the dissertation process. The new milestones include 1) A Gateway Review after completing the first 12 credits of doctoral study; 2) a course-based inquiry tool requirement; and 3) a doctoral comprehensive exam structured around a pilot study to be carried out by each student, presented in journal article format and defended orally.

Inquiry Tool Requirement

The University at Albany requires that doctoral students demonstrate competence in “research tools” appropriate to their professional specialties. In ETAP, this demonstration of skill with research tools is fulfilled through formal coursework applied to the graduate program.

Required Coursework

Research in education draws on a wide variety of research methodologies, drawing from traditions in history, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, sociology, linguistics, and other disciplines. Within these traditions, specific methods of inquiry are sometimes roughly divided into those which are quantitative and those that are primarily qualitative. To insure a breadth of understanding of current research methods, students should develop:

a) familiarity with the premises of inquiry and methodologies of both quantitative and qualitative approaches to educational research; and

b) the competence to employ one or more of these approaches in dissertation research.

These requirements are met through the completion of at least one course in each area (qualitative and quantitative), and at least two additional courses in one area of inquiry (four courses in all, totaling at least 12 credits).

The advisor must preapprove all courses that a student intends to use to fulfill the Research Tool Requirement.

Minimum Grades

A minimum grade of B+ in any one course and an A- average across all four advisor-approved courses are required to fulfill the Research Tool Requirement.

Courses Offered

A wide variety of relevant inquiry-related courses are offered in the Department, in other departments in the School of Education, and in other departments of the University. An incomplete list of inquiry courses follows:
General Research Methodology

ETAP 741: Advanced Issues in Methodology
ETAP 743: Meta-analysis and Literature Review in Educational Research
ETAP 771: Research Design Seminar in Educational Theory and Practice
ETAP 772: Inquiry Skills in Program Development II
ETAP 781: Research in Practice II
ETAP 826: Advanced Methods for Studying Learning in Technology-Enriched Contexts

Qualitative Methods

ETAP 776: Theory and Practices of Interviewing in Interpretive Research
ETAP 777: Qualitative Research Methods
ETAP 778: Qualitative Research Field Methods

Quantitative Methods

EPSY 530: Statistical Methods I
EPSY 630: Statistical Methods II
EPSY 734: Multivariate Analysis with Computer Applications
ANT 600: Quantitative Methods in Anthropology
ANT 601: Advanced Quantitative Methods in Anthropology

Specific courses should be chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor, keeping in mind the twin goals of familiarity with diverse traditions (one course in each area) and competence to work within a particular tradition (two additional courses in one area). General research methodology courses may count as either quantitative or qualitative with the consent of the advisor.