

TEACHING, LEARNING AND CURRICULUM STUDIES - PH.D.

College of Education and Human Services
 School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies
www.kent.edu/ehhs/tlcs

Program revisions are pending approval from the Ohio Department of Higher Education. After final approval, the program revisions will display.

About This Program

Become a leader in Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies with Kent State's Ph.D. program. Conduct original research and develop expertise in curriculum theory to shape the future of education. Read more...

Contact Information

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- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
 - In person
- **Location:**
 - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Education teachers, postsecondary

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 77,300 number of jobs
- \$65,440 potential earnings

Instructional coordinators

- 5.9% faster than the average
- 192,900 number of jobs
- \$66,970 potential earnings

Additional Careers

- University Professor

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 graduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale (minimum 3.500 graduate GPA is recommended) *starting with spring 2026 admission term, minimum 3.000 graduate GPA will be required*
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Application essay
- Two letters of recommendation
- Interview
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:¹
 - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
 - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
 - Minimum 58 PTE score
 - Minimum 110 DET score

¹ International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
 - Application Deadline: July 15
- **Spring Semester**
 - Application Deadline: November 15
- **Summer Term**
 - Application Deadline: April 15 (domestic students only)

All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted after these deadlines will be considered on a space-available basis.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements		
CI 87000	THEORIES OF INSTRUCTION: RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN TEACHING	3
CI 87001	CURRICULUM THEORIES: RESEARCH, DESIGN, AND EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE	3
CI 87002	FORMS OF INQUIRY IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION	3
RMS 75510	STATISTICS I FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3
RMS 85515	QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN AND ANALYSIS	3
RMS 85516	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	3
RMS 85517	ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ¹	3
or RMS 85518	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	

Doctoral Elective (70000 or 80000 level) Approved by Prospectus Committee		3
Culminating Requirement		
CI 80001	PROSEMINAR IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION I	3
CI 80090	PROSEMINAR II: THEORY AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION	3
CI 80199	DISSERTATION I ²	30
Concentrations		
Choose from the following:		12
Adapted/Physical Education		
Curriculum and Teaching Studies		
Educational Technology		
Early Childhood Education		
Literacy		
Mathematics Education		
Science Education		
Social Studies Education		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		72

¹ Students may complete another specialized research methods course with approval.

² Upon admission to candidacy, each doctoral candidate must register for CI 80199. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for Dissertation I for a total of 30 credit hours, and thereafter CI 80299, each semester until all requirements for the degree have been met.

Adapted/Physical Education Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
CI 75592	PRACTICUM IN ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
CI 77096	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION	
CI 85025	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SPORT PEDAGOGY - AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE	
CI 85037	ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
CI 85044	PEDAGOGICAL ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT	
CI 85055	CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN SPORT PEDAGOGY	
Other doctoral-level course, with advisor approval		
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Curriculum and Teaching Studies Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
CI 71130	MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION: STRATEGIES	
CI 77002	CURRICULUM LEADERSHIP	
CI 77003	TEACHER EDUCATION	

CI 77005	INTERCULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING	
CI 77010	CURRICULUM EVALUATION	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Educational Technology Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
ETEC 77420	RESEARCH ISSUES IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY	3
ETEC 77491	SEMINAR: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY	3
ETEC 87450	LEARNING WITH EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES	3
Educational Technology (ETEC) Doctoral-Level Elective (70000 or 80000 level)		3
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Early Childhood Education Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
ECED 70152	APPLICATION OF SELECTED THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN	
ECED 70158	RECONCEPTUALIZING EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM	
ECED 70163	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND TRENDS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	
ECED 70170	WRITING FOR PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	
ECED 80298	RESEARCH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Literacy Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
CI 87340	RESEARCH IN READING	3
CI 87342	SEMINAR IN READING AND LANGUAGE	3
CI 87343	RESEARCH IN TEACHING OF WRITING	3
CI 87398	RESEARCH IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS	3
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Mathematics Education Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
CI 77225	RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION	3
CI 87791	DOCTORAL SEMINAR IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION	3
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		6
CI 77095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION	
CI 77224	TEACHING MATHEMATICS WITH TECHNOLOGY	

CI 77226	IMPROVING MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION IN MIDDLE CHILDHOOD	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Science Education Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
CI 71133	ISSUES AND TRENDS IN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE	3
CI 71134	RESEARCH TRENDS IN SCIENCE EDUCATION	3
CI 71140	CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM IN SCIENCE EDUCATION	3
CI 71141	NATURE OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION	3
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Social Studies Education Concentration Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Concentration Requirements		
Concentration Electives, choose from the following:		12
CI 71124	EDUCATING THE GOOD CITIZEN	
CI 71125	ISSUES AND TRENDS IN SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION	
CI 71126	RESEARCH IN SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHING AND LEARNING	
CI 71127	TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL STUDIES	
CI 77095	SPECIAL TOPICS IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION	
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		12

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- Students may be required to take an introductory course on fundamentals of curriculum and other additional coursework, as well as research activities that support their scholarly interests in the context of doctoral socialization.

Comprehensive Examination Requirements

The course phase of study culminates with a written and oral comprehensive examination that is created and evaluated by each doctoral student’s prospectus committee. Students choose one of the following options for the written component:

- Eight-hour in-class written examination
- Take-home written examination
- Written examination and portfolio (this option must be selected when submitting the plan of study)

Once doctoral students have passed the comprehensive examination, they organize a dissertation committee, which supervises their dissertation research project.

Roadmap

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the program will be able to:

1. Practice research-based leadership.
2. Function as responsible, informed researchers in a specific curriculum and instruction area of study and professional practice.
3. Establish a disciplined life of inquiry.
4. Conduct research informed by multicultural education literature.

Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Curriculum and Instruction prepares scholars for successful careers in college and university settings and produces curriculum leaders for schools and other educational institutions. The program is relevant for qualified students interested in issues related to educational research with a curriculum and instruction focus. Upon completion of the program, students will have gained insight into what it means to transition from doctoral student to disciplined scholar.

The major comprises the following concentrations:

- Adapted/Physical Education
- Curriculum and Teaching Studies
- Educational Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Literacy
- Mathematics Education
- Science Education
- Social Studies Education