

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

Overview: There is no specific program of study; a program is designed for each PhD student in collaboration with the student's faculty committee. A student must count at least 36 units toward the major, at least 9 units toward the minor, and at least 18 dissertation units.¹ Essentially, there are no specific course requirements although there are content requirements. For example, the student is required to pass the commons portion of the preliminary examinations in three areas but need not necessarily take the courses connected to those exams. There are three "higher education course requirements" that students normally take but for which courses from other colleges may be substituted. Credits may be transferred in from other graduate programs.²

Content Requirements

Quantitative Methods

Qualitative Methods

Research Design

Note: Students are strongly advised to take Quantitative Methods and Research Design from Higher Education faculty.

Higher Education Courses

Courses on which the commons portion of the Preliminary Examinations are based.

HED 601 Higher Education in the United States

HED 609 Organization and Administration in Higher Education

HED 636 College Access and Success OR HED 637 College Student Transitions

Courses in the Concentration³

From 3 to 15 credits or more

Electives

From 0 to 9 credits or more

Minor

Note: Normally, but not always, the minor is taken in other departments/programs of the University. The most common pattern is to minor in the same area in which the master's degrees was earned although the variation is very large. One option is for a "split minor," whereby a student selects courses from two or more departments and minor committee member may come from one or more of these departments. Requirements for the minor, including specific courses, are strictly at the discretion of the minor advisor and department.

¹ There is no specific credit hour requirement other than at least 30 units (comprising the 18 dissertation units and at least 12 units of letter-graded coursework) must be earned at the University of Arizona. The graded courses can be taken while the student is in the Ph.D program or may be courses taken while the student pursued a master's (or even while in non-degree seeking status) at UA. *Students should consult the Graduate College website (<http://grad.arizona.edu/academics/program-requirements/doctor-of-philosophy>) for additional University requirements.*

² Credits applied to the PhD are strongly advised to be completed within 10 years of the time that the degree is completed. Possessing a master's usually will reduce the credit requirements. Because of the 30-unit rule (at the University of Arizona), the reduction in credits required as a result of credit transfer typically will be small. The most important principle to remember is that the student's committee has final authority for the course of study, subject to the modest number of departmental and University regulations.

³ The concentrations (majors) are College Access, Organization and Administration, Policy, and College Student Personnel. It is critical to note that courses other than HED courses may be listed in the major.