

LEARNING SCIENCES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

Faculty and students in CU Boulder's Learning Sciences & Human Development (LSHD) PhD program study how people learn in the context of organizing for more equitable, sustainable social futures. Researchers consider how the practice of research can inform social change that can improve learning and teaching for K–12 students and their teachers, for undergraduates and the organization of higher education pathways, and in community contexts. Working in partnership with school and community partners is a key component of the approach taken to understanding educational problems and their possible solutions.

The LSHD PhD program prepares graduate students to research and inform collective efforts to improve conditions of learning, particularly for young people from non-dominant communities and the adults (including teachers, community organizers and community members) who work with them. The program emphasizes:

- How a strong foundation in psychological perspectives on education and human development can inform efforts to improve conditions for learning in school and out of school contexts;
- The need to go beyond psychological perspectives to interpret learning and development in social, cultural and historical contexts;
- Social justice as a central concern in studying and informing efforts to improve conditions of learning; and
- Humanistic approaches to research that draw on interpretive, phenomenological and social practice theories of human action.

Students work with faculty members who conduct research in a range of settings, including schools, preservice teacher education programs, after-school programs, museums, community organizations, workplaces and grassroots social movements.

For more information, visit the department's PhD in LSHD (<https://www.colorado.edu/education/academics/graduate-programs/learning-sciences-human-development/phd-learning-sciences-human>) webpage.

Requirements

Course Requirements

Student must successfully complete 56 credit hours of approved coursework, with 23 credit hours of core courses (see below) taken as a doctoral cohort during the first two years of study. Students must maintain at least a B (3.0) average with no grade lower than a B- while enrolled.

Students must complete 30 hours of dissertation credit. Students must be registered for a minimum of 5 dissertation hours per semester after successful completion of their comprehensive exam.

For more information, visit the department's Degree Requirements (<http://www.colorado.edu/education/graduate-programs/learning-sciences-human-development/phd-lshd/degree-requirements>) webpage.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Core Courses		
EDUC 8230	Quantitative Methods I	3
EDUC 8250	Qualitative Methods I	3
EDUC 8210	Perspectives on Classroom Teaching and Learning	3
EDUC 8240	Quantitative Methods II	3
EDUC 8260	Qualitative Methods II	3
EDUC 8220	Introduction to Educational Research and Policy	3
EDUC 6928	Readings in Learning Sciences and Human Development	1
EDUC 6928	Readings in Learning Sciences and Human Development	1
Advanced Seminar in Democracy, Diversity and Social Justice (select from a faculty-approved list of courses)		3
Advanced Topics in Learning Sciences and Human Development		
Choose 12 additional credit hours of courses with your advisor's approval from the following:		12
EDUC 8135	Theories of Teacher Learning and Teacher Education	
EDUC 8348	Seminar: Human Development (may be repeated for credit)	
EDUC 8358	Seminar: Human Learning (may be repeated for credit)	
Total Credit Hours		35

Electives

Choose 21 credit hours of graduate-level courses with your advisor's approval. Of these, least 6 credit hours must be outside Learning Sciences & Human Development, and must be courses other than those used to satisfy the core requirements and the advanced topics requirements. Note: These electives may be used to satisfy requirements toward the Institute for Cognitive Sciences certificate (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/cognitive-science/cognitive-science-graduate-certificate).

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit is defined as any credit earned at another accredited institution, credits earned on another campus of the CU system, or credits earned as a nondegree student within the CU system. Students who have transfer credits must complete the transfer of credit paperwork.

The maximum amount of work that may be transferred from another accredited institution to CU Boulder is 12 credit hours, and is accepted only after approval of the faculty advisor and Director of Advising and Student Success. All courses accepted for transfer must be graduate-level courses. A course in which a grade of B- or lower was received will not be accepted for transfer.

Transfer coursework must have been completed in the five years prior to acceptance to the program. Credit may not be transferred until the student has completed 6 credits of graduate-level coursework as a degree-seeking student on the CU Boulder campus with a 3.0 GPA.

Language Requirement

Please see the *Graduate Student Handbook* for more information on this requirement.

Dissertation Credit

All doctoral students must take a minimum of 30 dissertation hours (EDUC 8994 PhD Doctoral Dissertation).

Students are allowed to take up to 10 hours prior to passing their comprehensive exam. Once students pass their comprehensive exam, they must be registered for a minimum of 5 dissertation hours every semester. Students may be registered for 3 hours if they are "off-campus" status, meaning they are not on appointment and are not taking any coursework hours.

Students must be registered for a minimum of 5 dissertation hours during the semester they defend.

Scholarly Project

All doctoral students are required to complete, at minimum, one scholarly project prior to taking the comprehensive exam. Presentations at professional meetings, published articles, reviews, etc., are typical ways to satisfy the requirement.

Comprehensive Exam

The comprehensive exam should be taken after students have completed the majority of their coursework but prior to completion of the dissertation. The committee comprises three graduate faculty members from the School of Education, and must be approved by the Associate Dean for Students and Director of Advising and Student Success prior to the exam. Students should consult their advisors concerning the format of the comprehensive examination. The candidacy application must also be submitted at the beginning of the semester in which the exam is taken.

Committee members must receive approval from the School of Education prior to the exam. Please check the deadlines sheet for dates.

Proposal Committee

Once students have successfully passed their comprehensive exam, they should consult their faculty advisor in regards to their dissertation proposal committee. The dissertation proposal committee must include at least five faculty: three of whom must be School of Education graduate faculty and one of whom must be CU Boulder campus resident graduate faculty but outside the School of Education. These members must also be approved by the graduate school prior to the proposal.

Committee members must receive approval from the School of Education prior to the exam. Please check the deadlines sheet for dates.

Dissertation Committee and Final Defense

The dissertation committee must include at least five faculty: three of whom must be School of Education graduate faculty and one of whom must be CU Boulder campus resident graduate faculty but outside the School of Education. These members must also be approved by the graduate school prior to the proposal.

After successful completion of dissertation defense, the completed dissertation must be uploaded to the graduate school according to graduate school procedures and deadlines. Please see the graduate school website for deadlines details.

Committee members must receive approval from the School of Education prior to the exam. Please check the deadlines sheet for dates.

Time Limit

The doctoral degree must be completed within six years.