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

Faculty and students in CU Boulder's learning sciences and human development 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 we take to understanding educational problems and their possible solutions.

The learning sciences and human development (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, afterschool programs, museums, community organizations, workplaces and grassroots social movements.

For more information, visit the department's PhD in Learning Sciences & Human Development (LShD) webpage.

**Requirements**

**Course Requirements**

Student must successfully complete 56 credit hours of approved coursework, with 12 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 webpage.

**Required Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8230</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8250</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8210</td>
<td>Perspectives on Classroom Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8240</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8260</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8220</td>
<td>Introduction to Educational Research and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 6928</td>
<td>Readings in Learning Sciences and Human Development</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 6928</td>
<td>Readings in Learning Sciences and Human Development</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Democracy, Diversity and Social Justice (select from a faculty-approved list of courses)</td>
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**Advanced Topics in Learning Sciences and Human Development**

Choose 12 additional credit hours of courses with your advisor's approval from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8135</td>
<td>Seminar: Research on Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8348</td>
<td>Seminar: Human Development (may be repeated for credit)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8358</td>
<td>Seminar: Human Learning (may be repeated for credit)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credit Hours**

35

**Electives**

Choose 21 credit hours of graduate-level courses with your advisor's approval. Of these, at least 6 credit hours must be outside learning sciences and 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 associate dean for graduate studies. 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 course work 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 course work 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 course work 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 course work. The committee, comprised of three graduate faculty members, must be approved by the associate dean and graduate studies coordinator prior to the exam. The candidacy application should also be submitted at this time.

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

Prospectus
The dissertation prospectus committee should be comprised of four School of Education graduate faculty members and one graduate faculty member from outside the School but within CU Boulder. These members must also be approved prior to the prospectus. A signature page should be turned in to the graduate studies coordinator upon completion.

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

Final Defense
The dissertation committee should be comprised of four School of Education graduate faculty members and one graduate faculty member from outside the school but within CU Boulder. These members must also be approved prior to the defense. A signature page and final exam form should be turned in to the graduate studies coordinator upon completion. The complete and revised dissertation should be submitted to the Graduate School via the Proquest website according to Graduate School semester deadlines.

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.