EDUCATION - RESEARCH AND EVALUATION METHODOLOGY - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

The PhD program in research and evaluation methodology (REM) offers a way to combine substantive interests about education with advanced training in research methods. A central mission of the program is to give students the training they need to use sophisticated methods that shed light on policies, programs and practices that have been enacted to facilitate student learning and to mitigate educational inequality. Students learn not only how to apply a methodological approach, but to think deeply about when and why the approach is sensible given the real-world context that motivated the need for research. Learning how to do high quality research is just one piece of the puzzle. Communicating findings with clarity is another. In REM, students develop the ability to convey the results from complicated studies to a broad audience.

A spirit of critical inquiry is a defining feature of our community. When claims about education are made—by students or faculty—it is expected that those claims will be supported by an empirical warrant. Our faculty strive to foster an environment for students that is at once challenging and supportive. During our weekly REM seminar, students have the opportunity to interact with invited speakers, discuss timely research topics and studies, brainstorm ideas for publishable papers and practice giving oral presentations. Close contact between students and faculty is the rule, not the exception. We teach courses and mentor students with the same commitment and dedication that is evident in our scholarly research. Students can expect to experience ongoing support as they embark on a path that begins with coursework, transitions to dissertation prospectus and defense, and culminates in a job that meshes with the student’s career aspirations.

REM Students

The REM program is a place for intellectually curious and motivated students who want to learn about deep research methodology with an eye toward influencing education policy and practice. The most common methodological specializations are:

- psychometrics and educational assessment
- applied statistics

The program is a full-time commitment, and all admitted students are supported with five years of funding, including tuition remission and a stipend for living expenses. Students participate in graduate research assistantships each semester and can expect to work with faculty on research projects as part of CADRE.

The Center for Assessment, Design, Research and Evaluation (CADRE)

All REM students can expect to be involved in CADRE research. The mission of CADRE is to produce generalizable knowledge that improves the ability to assess student learning and to evaluate programs and methods that may have an effect on this learning. CADRE projects represent a collaboration with the ongoing activities in the School of Education, the University, and the broader national and international community of scholars and stakeholders involved in educational assessment and evaluation. Visit the center’s CADRE Projects and Resources (http://www.colorado.edu/cadre/cadre-projects-and-resources) webpage for examples.

Career Opportunities

Opportunities for students with a PhD from REM include:

- university teaching and research
- research, evaluation and testing in state departments of education and large school districts
- research and policy analysis for think tanks like the RAND Corporation, SRI International, and federally funded regional research and development laboratories
- measurement or statistical analysis for assessment and testing organizations such as the Educational Testing Service
- consultation for government and education agencies

Examples of our REM graduates’ careers over the past 10 years:

- National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (Senior Associate)
- Educational Testing Service (Research Scientist)
- Center for Assessment, Design, Research and Evaluation (Associate Director)
- SRI International (Principal Research Scientist)
- Stanford University (Assistant Professor)

Requirements

Course Requirements

Students 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/research-evaluation-methodology/phd-rem/degree-requirements) webpage.

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 8230</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 8240</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
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<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 6926</td>
<td>Readings in Research and Evaluation Methodology (First year: Fall Semester)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 6926</td>
<td>Readings in Research and Evaluation Methodology (First year: Spring Semester)</td>
<td>1</td>
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Advanced Seminar in Democracy, Diversity & Social Justice
(select from a faculty-approved list of courses) 3

REM Courses
EDUC 7396 Categorical Data Analysis 3
EDUC 7456 Multilevel Modeling 3
EDUC 8710 Measurement in Survey Research 3
EDUC 8720 Advanced Topics in Measurement 3
EDUC 7326 Quasi-Experimental Design in Causal Inference in Social Sciences 3
EDUC 7386 Educational Evaluation 3

Total Credit Hours 41

Electives

Choose at least 15 additional credit hours of courses from within the School of Education, to be chosen in consultation with your advisor and in the context of your interests and developing expertise. Eligible courses include:

EDUC 6210 Education Policy and the Law
EDUC 7055 Philosophy of Education
EDUC 8045 Philosophical Issues in Educational Research
EDUC 8055 Theoretical Issues in Education Policy
EDUC 8740 Advances in the Assessment of Student Learning
EDUC 8615 Language Issues in Education Research
EDUC 8730 Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis
ECON 7818 Mathematical Statistics for Economists
ECON 7828 Econometrics
MATH 4510 Introduction to Probability Theory
MATH 4520 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics or APPM 555
SOCY 6111 Data 2: Data Analysis
SOCY 7111 Data III–Advanced Data Analysis

Total Credit Hours 15

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 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. 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.