

## Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) in Early Childhood and Elementary Education



All doctoral students in the Early Childhood and Elementary Education Major will be expected to promote scholarly advocacy for children, to understand the nature of children and their development, to understand theories undergirding educational practices and issues, and to excel as teacher educators. Required residency experiences ensure that students develop knowledge and skills about mentoring and teaching educators as well as conducting research. Courses required in the Major ensure that doctoral students share knowledge about historical, political, developmental, and theoretical paradigms that have shaped educational contexts and research. In addition, elective courses allow for individualization of the doctoral program to create an area of expertise within Early Childhood and Elementary Education. The Major course offerings are further described in the Program Manual for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

### How to Apply

Admissions requirements for this degree follow doctoral admission criteria as found in the Georgia State University Graduate Catalog. The application deadline is **May 1** for Fall, **November 1** for Spring, and **January 15** for a Summer program start date.

Admission into the program is based on the following criteria.

- A master's degree from an accredited graduate institution or the equivalent as decided by the Faculty Committee on Doctoral Programs.
- A 3.3/4.0 cumulative graduate grade point average (Cum. GPA) on all previous graduate work.
- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) test scores must be reported officially at the time of application to the doctoral program, rather than taken from student records or transcripts, and can be no more than 5 years old.
- TOEFL and GTEP scores must be submitted by international students as part of the application for Admission to Graduate Study. A score of at least 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Georgia Test of English Proficiency. The GTEP score is used to evaluate the need for remediation in the use of the English language for doctoral study before registration for any doctoral coursework.
- An autobiographical statement written in English describing personal and professional goals in relation to the goals and purposes of the Early Childhood Department.
- A current vita or resume summarizing prior educational and employment history and pertinent professional activities.
- A sample of scholarly writing (e.g., master's thesis, term paper, unpublished manuscript, or other written work). We suggest you check all manuscripts for correct citations of others' work. <http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html> provides one source for checking written work. *Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of academic integrity.*
- Two letters of recommendation that analyze the applicant's academic qualifications and ability to do advanced graduate work. No more than one letter from a Georgia State University Early Childhood Education faculty member should be submitted.
- Professional experience with young children birth-12 years.

## Program of Study

Planning doctoral study coursework to address the goals mentioned above is done in consultation with an Advisor with consideration of each student's career goals, prior academic work, and professional experience. Each program, therefore, is unique. However, the following courses are offered:

### A. Core Area (21)

The Core Area consists of 18 semester hours of research coursework and 3 semester hours of Social Foundation of Education and Psychology of Learning coursework. After completing the required introductory methods courses, the student and Doctoral Advisory Committee identify a research track based on methodology to be employed in the students' dissertation research. Advanced Research electives are chosen based on individual student's needs, and select one or two courses from this track. The Doctoral Advisory Committee may require additional coursework in a research track.

#### Research Core (18 hours)

##### Required (6):

EPRS 8500 Qualitative/Interpretive Research in Education (3)

EPRS 8530 Quantitative Methods and Analysis in Education (3)

##### Required (12):

A two course sequence (6 hours) in research methodology [for specific courses: [http://education.gsu.edu/main/phd\\_requirement.htm](http://education.gsu.edu/main/phd_requirement.htm)]

Two courses (6 hours) in advanced research methods as identified by the Doctoral Advisory Committee

Social Foundations of Education and Psychology of Learning course (3) [for specific courses: [http://education.gsu.edu/main/phd\\_requirement.htm](http://education.gsu.edu/main/phd_requirement.htm)]

### B. Major Area (27)

#### Required courses (12)

ECE 9360 Curriculum, Issues, and Historical Perspectives in Early Childhood Education (3)

ECE 9800 Doctoral Studies (1) [taken 3 times in first two years]

ECE 9860 Evaluating and Interpreting Research in Early Child and Elementary Education (3)

ECE 9960 Advanced Theory and Research in Child Development (3)

#### Elective Courses (15)

At least 12 semester hours of elective courses must come from within the department. Doctoral-level elective courses offered within the Department include:

ECE/EPRS 9120, ECE 9393, ECE 9394, ECE 9395, ECE 9396, ECE 9420, ECE/EPRS 9380, ECE 9840, ECE 9400, ECE 9850, ECE 9810, ECE 9860 ECE 9890  
ECE 9910

#### K-5 Mathematics Endorsement (optional):

As part of the coursework leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree, students who hold a current teaching certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission may satisfy part of the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement requirements by completing four 9000-level courses (ECE 9393, ECE 9394, ECE 9395, and ECE 9396). To apply for the K-5 Mathematics Endorsement, students must also complete ECE 7740 Internship in Early Childhood Education I (3) while enrolled in one of the four specified 9000-level endorsement courses. ECE 7740 does not satisfy the 8000-9000 level-course requirements for the College of Education courses applicable to the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

### D. Dissertation (15)

ECE 9990 Dissertation (15)

Program total: minimum of 63 semester hours