

**North Dakota State University  
School of Education**

**Ph.D. in Education  
Option: Occupational and Adult Education**

***“Cultivating Intellectual Capital”***

The Ph.D. degree in Education with a focus on Occupational and Adult Education is intended for individuals seeking employment as scholar-researchers. Ph.D. graduates in Occupational and Adult Education focus their research on varying factors that shape specific adult education practices—in the home, place of worship, workplace, community, and wider society. The Ph.D. emphasizes the study and synthesis of theory and research, and is intended to produce dedicated scholar-researchers committed to the advancement of knowledge and scholarship in the field and may also produce scholar-practitioners who wish a strong depth in research preparation for practice.

Ph.D. recipients in Occupational and Adult Education analyze the nature, function and scope of adult, occupational and continuing education; value the concept of informed and reflective practice; integrate disciplinary knowledge with theories of teaching and learning; reconceptualize the meaning and value of teaching and learning; lead and conduct independent scholarly research using various sophisticated methodologies of disciplined inquiry; create, advance, expand, revise and disseminate new theories and knowledge and understandings in the field of adult, occupational and continuing education; and become responsible stewards of the discipline and culture of lifelong learning.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The Occupational and Adult Education curriculum was designed to provide the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for understanding the nature, function and scope of adult education both inside and outside of formal adult educational settings. Students plan their program of study in consultation with their advisor and dissertation committees. The total number of hours required for the degree is 90 hours beyond the bachelor's degree, 30 hours of which may be approved from a master's degree or post-master's coursework, and all hours listed are required minimums. Students may take additional hours and some courses of study may require more than the 90-hour minimum as directed by the student's advisor and committee.

Students proceed through their respective degree programs with the assistance and guidance of a faculty advisor and an advisory committee. The student develops a plan of study, completes a qualifying examination process, submits a dissertation proposal, and completes a dissertation following the procedures outlined by the Graduate School, the Education Doctoral Programs faculty, and the student's advisory committee. (See the program web site and the *Graduate Bulletin* for further detail about the expectations for the degree.)

The degree plan has the following course components:

**EDUCATION DOCTORAL PROGRAMS CORE:** (minimum of 15 credit hours)

Students in both Education degree programs, regardless of the option area, complete core courses that situate teaching and learning within social, cultural, historical, and economic contexts. Each course is taught collaboratively across degree programs and options to address issues related to higher education and adult learners in the belief that such knowledge is equally applicable regardless of one's career path.

EDUC 801: Foundations of Doctoral Scholarship (3 credits; completed during first semester)  
EDUC 802: Foundations of Educational Research (3 credits; completed during first semester)  
EDUC 803: Philosophical Foundations of Education (3 credits; completed during second semester)  
EDUC 890: Research Seminar (1-9 credits; 1 hour per summer prior to Capstone)  
EDUC 890: Capstone Seminar (3 credits; completed after all other coursework)

Additionally, students must select at least three (3) hours from the following courses:

EDUC 806: International and Comparative Education (3 credits)  
EDUC 807: Diversity and Educational Policy (3 credits)  
EDUC 808: Empowerment and Transformative Education (3 credits)

**DISCIPLINED INQUIRY CORE:** (minimum of 18 credit hours)

*Note:* EDUC 702: Statistics in Educational Research (3 credits) is a prerequisite for some research courses but does not count toward the completion of your doctoral degree should you need to complete it.

All students in the Ph.D. program with an option in Occupational and Adult Education are required to take the following fifteen (15) credit hours of disciplined inquiry courses.

EDUC 871: Planning and Conducting Needs Assessments (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 872: Qualitative Research and Program Evaluation (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 873: Case-Based Educational Research and Statistics (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 883: Survey Research (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 884: Program Evaluation Research (3 credits; required)

In addition, Ph.D. students should also select an additional (minimum 3 credits) advanced research methods course(s) from the following list based on methods focus, i.e. additional quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods courses, as directed and determined by the Plan of Study.

HDFS 758: Longitudinal Research Methods & Analysis (3 credits)  
EDUC 885: Structural and Equation Modeling Fundamentals (3 credits)  
EDUC 886: Advanced Qualitative Research (3 credits)  
EDUC 890: Research Seminar (3 credits)

**OCCUPATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION OPTION:** (minimum of 18 credit hours)

Students in the Ph.D. program with an option in Occupational and Adult Education complete core courses that provide a foundation for the field. These courses will prepare students to take the role of designer and facilitator in a variety of adult learning environments. Each course is taught collaboratively across degree programs to address issues related to occupational and adult education in the belief that such knowledge is equally applicable regardless of one's career path.

***Occupational and Adult Education Core:*** (9 credit hours; required of all in OAE option area)

EDUC 851: Adult Learning (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 852: Foundations of Occupational & Adult Education (3 credits; required)  
EDUC 853: Instructional Methods for Adult Learners (3 credits)

***Professional Emphasis:*** (minimum of 9 credit hours)

In order to build an area of relevant expertise, students select appropriate additional courses that extend and connect the degree option in Occupational and Adult Education to the students' own professional context, interests, and goals. Suggested areas of emphasis may include, but are not limited to, the following:

*Occupational Education:*

EDUC 728: Instructional Technology for Teaching & Learning (3 credits)  
EDUC 729: Multimodal Education Delivery Systems (3 credits)  
EDUC 730: Leadership, Planning, and Organizational Behavior (3 credits)  
EDUC 782: Supervisory & Administrative Theory (3 credits)  
EDUC 785: Organization & Administration of Career/Technical Education (3 credits)  
EDUC 831: Institutional Quality Control (3 credits)  
EDUC 832: Assessment Techniques for Educational Institutions (3 credits)  
EDUC 863: Education and Training for Business and Industry (3 credits)  
EDUC 894: Practicum/Internship or Field Experience (1-10 credits)

*Adult Learning:*

EDUC 718: Community Adult Education (2 credits)  
EDUC 728: Instructional Technology for Teaching & Learning (3 credits)  
EDUC 729: Multimodal Education Delivery Systems (3 credits)  
EDUC 730: Leadership, Planning, and Organizational Behavior (3 credits)  
EDUC 769: Politics & Policy Analysis in Education (2 credits)  
EDUC 782: Supervisory & Administrative Theory (3 credits)  
EDUC 832: Assessment Techniques for Educational Institutions (3 credits)  
EDUC 894: Practicum/Internship or Field Experience (1-10 credits)

*Postsecondary Education:*

EDUC 728: Instructional Technology for Teaching & Learning (3 credits)  
EDUC 729: Multimodal Education Delivery Systems (3 credits)  
EDUC 832: Assessment Techniques for Educational Institutions (3 credits)  
EDUC 841: Organization and Administration of Higher Education (3 credits)  
EDUC 842: Higher Ed Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (3 credits)  
EDUC 843: Financing Higher Education (3 credits)  
EDUC 844: Higher Education Law (3 credits)  
EDUC 894: Practicum/Internship or Field Experience (1-10 credits)

*Curriculum & Instruction*

EDUC 728: Instructional Technology for Teaching & Learning (3 credits)  
EDUC 729: Multimodal Education Delivery Systems (3 credits)  
EDUC 750: Reflective Practice (3 credits)  
EDUC 832: Assessment Techniques for Educational Institutions (3 credits)  
EDUC 861: Curriculum and Instruction Development (3 credits)  
EDUC 894: Practicum/Internship or Field Experience (1-10 credits)

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH:** (minimum of 12 credit hours)

Students in the Ph.D. program in with an option in Occupational and Adult Education complete an original research project in the form of a doctoral dissertation. This dissertation should seek to advance knowledge through the creation, expansion, or revision of theory related to the field of Occupational and Adult Education. The student's advisor and committee will support and mentor students through this process.

Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examination process, students are required to complete at least twelve (12) hours of independent dissertation research.

EDUC 799: Doctoral Dissertation (1-12 credits)