

Ph.D. Program in Education Policy

Department of Education Reform
College of Education and Health Professions
University of Arkansas
September 2008

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Announcement

- On July 25, 2008, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board voted unanimously to approve a new Ph.D. program in Education Policy, at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville).
- The chairman of the Board's Academic Committee stated his "enthusiastic support," especially for the emphasis on education reform, as "good for the University and good for Arkansas."
- The program will be offered by the Department of Education Reform (EDRE), in the College of Education and Health Professions.
- The Department was created in 2005, with an endowment of \$17.5 million, with 6 endowed chairs of national recognition.
- The program is now accepting applications for Fall 2009 matriculation. (See contact information in final slide)

The Program's Intellectual Mission

The study of K-12 education policy,
based on the social sciences
and other academic disciplines,
supported by empirical research.

Endorsements From National Academic Leaders in Education Policy

- “Your faculty has assembled an absolutely terrific Ph.D. program...that eventually will be rated within the nation’s top 10”
 - Professor James Guthrie, Chair of Vanderbilt’s Peabody College Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations
- “You have managed to hire a startling group of researchers who ... are very well positioned to offer this program...The other current producers – Stanford, Harvard, Michigan – will immediately see that they have competition”
 - Professor Eric A. Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Target Student Body

- Education-Policy-Oriented Scholars Seeking Careers in:
 - Academia / think tanks / public sector
 - academic openings in education policy
 - 50 state education agencies and governors' offices
 - Think tanks and research firms
 - 3 doctoral fellows already successfully placed in academic, foundation & think tank jobs
- Minimum admissions requirements:
 - GRE combined scores of 1100, writing score of 5.0
 - Minimum GPA 3.0 undergraduate or 3.5 M.A.
 - GPA of 3.5 required for Doctoral Academy Fellowships
 - For Distinguished fellowships, higher GPA & GRE's required
 - Recommended background
 - Professional experience in education policy
 - Calculus and statistics prereq's to graduate econometrics

Course of Study: Outline

- Core Courses (15 hrs)
to establish the disciplinary base & intellectual framework
- Research Methods (12 hrs)
to prepare for empirical research
- Education Reform Fields (15 hrs)
to understand the pros & cons of key policy debates
- Electives (12 hrs)
to pursue further specialization and research

Core Courses: Disciplinary Basis (15 hrs)

(for more course detail, see

<http://catalogofstudies.uark.edu/08-010-GradCatalogCombined.pdf>, p. 94)

- **Philosophy of Education**
EDFD 5353
- **Economics of Education**
EDRE 6023
- **Politics of Education**
EDRE 6033
- **Finance and Education Policy**
EDRE 6043
- **Measurement of Educational Outcomes**
EDRE 6053

Research Methods (12 hrs)

- **Econometrics I & II**
ECON/AGEC 5613 & ECON 6623/AGEC 5623
- **Program Evaluation and Research Design**
EDRE 6213
- **Research Seminar in Education Policy**
EDRE 6223

Education Reform Fields (15 hours)

- **Issues in Education Policy**
EDRE 6413
- **Seminar in School Choice Policy**
EDRE 6423
- **Seminar in Education Accountability Policy**
EDRE 6433
- **Seminar in Education Leadership Policy**
EDRE 6443
- **Seminar in Teacher Quality and Public Policy**
EDRE 6453

Electives (12 hrs)

Mix of other relevant courses and directed research.

Subject to approval of graduate director and instructor.

Examples:

- EDAD 5053, School law
- EDFD 6513, Advanced Experimental Design
- EDFD 6533, Qualitative Research
- ECON 6633, Econometrics III
- ECON 5333, Economics of Organizations
- PLSC 5163, Public Policy
- PLSC 5243, Seminar in State and Local Politics

Qualifying Exam and Field Exams

- Qualifying Exam after 1st year
 - Written
 - Research methods, with applications to 1st-year content
- Field Exam in Fall or Spring of 3rd year
 - Written & oral components
 - 2 of 4 fields

Sample Schedule & Illustrative Assignments

Fall Semester 1

Econometrics 1 (ECON/AGEC 5613)
Program Evaluation
(Ritter or Wolf)
Elective 1
Research Seminar
(any EDRE faculty)

Fall Semester 3

Issues in Education Policy
(Ritter or Greene)
Sem in Ed Leadership (Maranto) OR
Seminar in Choice (Wolf or Greene)
Philosophy of Education
(Lucas [EDFD] or Stotsky)
Measurement of Educational Outcomes
(Ritter or Turner [EDFD])

Fall Semester 5

Sem in Ed Leadership (Maranto) OR
Seminar in Choice (Wolf or Greene)
Elective 3

ORAL EXAM IN 2 OF 4 FIELDS, IN FALL OR SPRING OF 3RD YEAR

Fall Semester 7

Dissertation (9 hours)

Spring Semester 2

Econometrics 2 (ECON 6623/AGEC 5623)
Finance & Ed Policy (Costrell or Ritter) OR
Econ of Education (Costrell)
Politics of Education
(Greene or Wolf or Maranto)

QUALIFYING EXAM, AFTER SPRING TERM

Spring Semester 4

Finance & Ed Policy (Costrell or Ritter) OR
Econ of Education (Costrell)
Seminar in Teacher Quality (Stotsky) OR
Seminar in Accountability (Costrell or Stotsky)
Elective 2

Spring Semester 6

Seminar in Teacher Quality (Stotsky) OR
Seminar in Accountability (Costrell or Stotsky)
Elective 4

Spring Semester 8

Dissertation (9 hours)

Faculty

- Jay Greene, Endowed Chair and Head of EDRE
Ph.D. in Political Science, Harvard University
- Robert Costrell, Endowed Chair in Education Accountability
Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University
- Gary Ritter, Endowed Chair in Education Policy
Ph.D. in Education Policy & Leadership, University of Pennsylvania
- Patrick Wolf, Endowed Chair in School Choice
Ph.D. in Political Science, Harvard University
- Sandra Stotsky, Endowed Chair in Teacher Quality
Ed.D. in Reading Research and Education, Harvard University
- Robert Maranto, Endowed Chair in Education Leadership
Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Minnesota

Key Journals in Which Faculty Publish

Education Finance and Policy

(journal of the American Education Finance Association, published at MIT)

Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis

(one of the journals of the American Education Research Assn)

Education Next

Brookings Papers on Education Policy

Peabody Journal of Education

Teachers' College Record

General Policy Journals, e.g. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

Economics journals e.g. *American Economic Review, Journal of Public Economics*

Doctoral Fellowships

- Funds committed for 10 doctoral fellowships
- The Doctoral Academy Fellowship provides full tuition plus an annual stipend.
- The Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship provides full tuition plus a higher annual stipend.
- Program anticipates awards to 3 or more new fellows per year: 1-year fellowships with renewal up to 4 years.
- More info, see www.uark.edu/ua/der/fellowships.html

Research & Dissemination Funds

- EDRE has \$4.5 million in research, project, and dissemination funds, generating about \$200,000 per year.
- EDRE has raised or been pledged almost \$7 million in external research grants.
- The program has sufficient research funds to actively engage all qualified doctoral students.
- EDRE-funded doctoral students have already presented research at national conferences, published in peer-reviewed journals, and received other national attention:
 - Performance pay for teachers
 - Charter school systemic effects
 - Effects of school accountability: test-based promotion policy

Resources: Facilities and Equipment

- Education Reform Research Lab is fully equipped, up and running, and waiting for more students.
- 9 work stations
- EDRE Research Lab functions as informal grad student lounge & policy research hothouse, with vibrant intellectual exchange & research germination.

Program Size

- Program Students:
 - 10 Graduate Doctoral Fellows
 - EDRE research projects allow for additional funded students
 - Faculty capacity to handle paying students.
- Anticipate 10-15 students in all
- Will graduate approx. 3-4 well-trained PhDs each year
- Program will have 6-7 faculty
- Student-teacher ratio will be approx 2 to 1; average of 1 or 2 dissertation students per faculty.
- Students will also benefit from working with 4-6 MA level EDRE research associates on EDRE projects

For More Information...

- Visit our department website www.uaedreform.org/
 - faculty & student research www.uark.edu/ua/der/der_research.php
 - speaker series www.uark.edu/ua/der/lecture_series_08_09.html
 - department in the news www.uark.edu/ua/der/news.php
 - doctoral fellowships www.uark.edu/ua/der/fellowships.html
- See Graduate Catalog for course listings
<http://catalogofstudies.uark.edu/08-010-GradCatalogCombined.pdf> (p. 94)
- Contact our Graduate Director:
Professor Robert M. Costrell (costrell@uark.edu, (479) 575-5332)
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