

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies, in the Teacher Education Division in the College of Education, effective fall term, 2018.

Background

The program is a PhD in Educational Studies with three concentrations: (1) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); (2) Reading, Literacy, and Literature (RLL); and (3) Curriculum and Critical Social Inquiry (CCSI).

Nationally, the field of educational studies needs independent researchers who have the knowledge and skills to integrate across contexts and arenas of scholarly work. Programs are needed that will support and socialize high-potential underprepared students into future roles as faculty in educational studies. The University of Michigan offers a 60 credit PhD in Educational Studies with nine (9) concentration options. Eastern Michigan University offers a 60 credit PhD in Educational Studies with two strands (P-12 Learners and Post-Secondary Learners). Michigan State University offers two PhD programs in the College of Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education; and Mathematics Education. These programs require 60-69 credits. The University of Toledo offers a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction for 60 credits.

This proposal builds upon recent discontinuation of outdated Ph.D. offerings in WSU's College of Education Teacher Education Division, enabling reallocation of faculty capacity and financial resources to support a more consolidated effort in doctoral education. This proposed consolidation will allow faculty to support students across concentration areas. The proposed program does not overlap with any other program at WSU.

Program Description

The PhD program in Educational Studies will offer concentrations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); Reading, Literacy and Literature (RLL); and Curriculum and Critical Social Inquiry (CCSI). In addition to coursework, students participate in collaborative research and writing projects. The program prepares students to become researchers committed to scholarly rigor, dedicated to teaching and learning in multiple contexts, and engaged in finding solutions to the challenges of urban education. Offered in a cohort model that starts in the fall, the program prepares students for a variety of positions at the local, state and national levels. This program's distinction is in its focus on preparing independent researchers, its use of faculty resources, and its cohort delivery model.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. A minimum master's GPA of 3.3 is required. A minimum bachelor's GPA of 3.0 is required. Teaching experience is not required but is recommended. Applicants must submit: an academic writing sample, three (3) letters of recommendation, a CV, and an interview with doctoral faculty.

Curriculum Requirements

Ninety (90) credit hours beyond the masters is required for the PhD in Educational Studies. Credit hour requirements are comprised of five categories: Educational Studies seminars (8 credits), concentration (16 credits), research core (15 credits), electives/transfer credits (21 credits), dissertation (30 credits). Per Graduate School policy, transfer credits must be appropriate to the student's degree program, cannot exceed 32 credit hours, and cannot be used to reduce the minimum requirement of thirty (30) credits of coursework, excluding dissertation, that must be earned at WSU.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within seven years of admission. Ninety (90) credit hours are required. A student must have achieved at least a 'B' (3.0) overall grade point average.

Program Administration

The program will be coordinated by a Program Coordinator and the Program Committee and will be monitored by the College of Education Doctoral Advisory Committee.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The program has a secure intellectual and financial base. Most faculty maintain graduate faculty status while teaching and conducting their research. The physical facilities currently in use to address the needs of the current programs will be available for this program. The Division has the necessary classrooms, meeting areas, computer labs, technology equipment, etc., to meet programmatic needs.

Accreditation

This program does not require accreditation.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, the College of Education Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.