



PhD in Literacy Education

Application Procedures & Program Requirements

The PhD in Literacy Education prepares students for careers in scholarly inquiry at universities or research centers. PhD students will study with a cadre of professionally active and knowledgeable faculty, take advanced coursework in literacy education, collaborate with faculty on grants and research projects, and have the opportunity to teach undergraduate literacy methods courses as they prepare for their scholarly careers in academe. Graduate assistantships are available to support PhD students through their doctoral studies. For information please contact Victoria Gillis (307-766-3219; vgillis@uwyo.edu), Cindy Brock (307-766-3166; Cynthia.Brock@uwyo.edu) or any other faculty member in the UW Literacy Education Program Area.

Admission Procedures For students to be considered for admission to the PhD in Literacy Education program, they must:

1. Complete an online application to the Literacy Education PhD Program, application found here: <http://www.uwyo.edu/admissions/graduate/>. Submit supporting materials with the online application:
 - a current resume or vita;
 - a detailed letter that expresses why the applicant wishes to pursue a PhD in Literacy Education, including the applicant's career goals; the applicant's prior experiences in literacy or literacy education (e.g., relevant teaching or other educational experiences);
 - previous university degrees, programs, certificates, or emphases related to literacy;
 - potential areas of focus in a literacy doctoral program; potential research interests;
 - and any other information the applicant considers to be relevant to her or his admission;
 - Three [Letters of Recommendation](#) from those who can speak to the applicant's intellect, scholarly abilities, teaching ability, or other qualifications for doctoral study. These letters typically would be former professors, supervisors, or administrators;
 - an official report of the [Graduate Record Examination](#) that was taken within the preceding 5 years;
 - an [Application for a Graduate Assistantship](#) should the student wish to seek one
 - An academic writing sample is not required, but is preferred.
 - TOEFL or IELTS test is required for international students.
2. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00¹ in prior undergraduate or graduate work.

3. Interview with Literacy Education Program faculty, either in person or via telephone.

Upon receipt of all materials, the application packet is forwarded to faculty in the Literacy Education Program Area. Following the interview, the literacy education faculty will make a recommendation regarding admission for Graduate Study at UW. Applications are considered once a year in the spring and deadline for applications is February 1.

Program Requirements

The PhD in Literacy Education requires that students comply with and satisfy all requirements specified by the University, http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/grad_students.html Additionally, PhD in Literacy Education doctoral candidates must satisfy the following program-specific requirements:

A. Coursework: A minimum² of 54 hours beyond the master's degree are required as follows:

1. **Research:** A minimum of 12 hours of research methods in quantitative, qualitative, or other methodologies are required. The courses will be selected collaboratively by the doctoral student and her or his PhD advisor and committee such that the research methodology training is thorough, rigorous, and compatible with the student's dissertation research plans and anticipated career research focus.
2. **Core:** Students must complete 9 hours of core courses. Students must enroll in PRST 5610 "Introduction to Doctoral Study," and two of the following courses selected collaboratively by the doctoral student and her or his PhD advisor and committee:
 - CNSL 5900 Practicum in College Teaching
 - EDCI 5600, "Diversity in Education"
 - EDCI 5810, "Writing for Professional Publication"
 - EDAD 5720 Leader as Change Agent
 - EDRE 5660 Dissertation/Thesis Prospectus Writing
3. **Literacy Education:** A minimum of 21 hours within or related to literacy education are required. These courses will be selected from existing and new advanced, graduate-level courses within the Literacy Program Area; from courses in other departments in the College of Education; and from other relevant academic departments at the University (e.g., Anthropology, Communication Disorders; English, Family and Consumer Sciences; African American, Chicano, American Indian, or Women's Studies; Psychology, Sociology). Course selection decisions will be made collaboratively by the doctoral student and her or his PhD advisor and committee based on the doctoral student's prior graduate work and post-doctorate career goals.
4. **Dissertation Research:** Students must enroll for a minimum of 12 hours of dissertation research credit during the period they plan, implement, and defend their dissertation.

B. Research Apprenticeship:

Doctoral students are required to participate in a research apprenticeship in which they work closely with a faculty member in order to gain experience and skills in conducting research. Faculty research mentors can be from within or outside the College of Education.

The apprenticeship may involve an ongoing faculty project or may be a project initiated by the student and faculty member during the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship could involve, for example, one or more of the following experiences:

- writing an IRB or grant proposal
- collecting and analyzing data (e.g., a qualitative analysis, a statistical analysis)
- writing a research report for publication independently or collaboratively with a faculty member
- presenting theoretical or empirical work at a professional conference independently or collaboratively with a faculty member
- undertaking a project that enhances the student's ability to conduct rigorous educational research.

The Research Apprenticeship must be approved in advance by the doctoral committee, and at the committee's discretion, students may enroll for independent study graduate credit as part of the Research Apprenticeship experience.³

C. Diversity:

Diversity is the adherence to the democratic value of mutual respect for, celebration of, and protection of the differences that make up the peoples of the world. It requires the development of a critical consciousness individually, institutionally, and societally about differences in all existing forms and levels of human experiences. Diversity includes, but is not limited to, gender, educational and socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, language, religion, national origin, physical and mental health, and sexual orientation. Graduates of the University of Wyoming and the College of Education should acquire an understanding and respect of differences within and across cultures, including their own. For this requirement, students must design, in consultation with their doctoral advisor and committee, a specific plan that enhances their knowledge of cultural diversity issues that address literacy education. This requirement can be met through curricular and extra-curricular experiences, including, but not limited to:

- enrolling in extant courses
- engaging in research or learning projects
- conducting lectures or workshops
- presenting papers at professional conference
- engaging in service at the community, state, national, or international level

For possibilities for engaging in cultural diversity experiences, see <http://www.uwyo.edu/uw/diversity/programs.asp>).

D. Preliminary Examination:

The Preliminary Examination for the PhD in Literacy Education is governed by policies specified by the University, accessible at the following URL:

http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/grad_students.html

Program-specific procedures for the preliminary examination for the PhD in Literacy Education are as follows:

- The preliminary examination will consist of a written and oral component, and both exams must be passed in order to satisfy the Preliminary Examination requirement. The doctoral committee will be responsible for the format, content, and scope of the preliminary examination.
- For the written component, the student, in consultation with the student's advisor and doctoral committee, may choose to take either a sit-down or a take-home exam. For the sit down exam option, the student will respond to 2 to 4 questions that synthesize the students' coursework and

other scholarly work up to this point in the program. The questions will be prepared by the student's advisor and doctoral committee, with possible input from the student.

- For the take-home exam option, the students will write 2-4 scholarly papers (which may later be submitted for presentation or publication) that synthesize the students' coursework and other scholarly work up to this point in the program. The topics of the papers will be determined by the student's advisor and doctoral committee, with possible input from the student.
- For students who have completed the written examination and have passed it provisionally in the judgment of the advisory committee, an oral examination will be scheduled. During the first portion of the oral examination, the doctoral committee may pursue questions or concerns about the written examination. In the remainder of the oral examination, the doctoral committee may ask the student any questions germane to research and scholarship in the field of literacy education.

E. Dissertation and Oral Defense:

The dissertation and final oral defense of the dissertation are governed by policies specified in the graduate catalog, available: http://www.uwyo.edu/registrar/university_catalog/grad_students.html. The dissertation will be a scholarly, independent research effort that demonstrates that the doctoral candidate is able to plan, implement, and convey to an academic audience a novel, significant inquiry in literacy education. Within the parameters of Graduate Study policies, the dissertation for PhD students in Literacy Education may take a variety of conventional or more contemporary forms. The form of the dissertation will be determined and approved by the doctoral committee in consultation with the candidate. These forms may include, but are not limited to, (1) a traditional print dissertation; (2) a dissertation consisting of a series of scholarly, empirically and/or theoretically focused, professional articles to be submitted for publication, already submitted for publication, or already published; and (c) an electronic or multimedia (including print) format.

D. Residency:

Doctoral students are required to enroll fulltime for two consecutive terms (fall and spring semesters and/or summer sessions).

¹ Students with a lower GPA may request Provisional Admission for Graduate Study at UW and the PhD in Literacy Education. To achieve full admission, students typically will be required to complete a specified number of graduate hours, after which the Literacy Education faculty will review their status and determine whether full admission will be granted.

² Students should be aware that the total program hours and those within the Research, Literacy Education, and Dissertation areas are **minimums**. The student may choose to exceed the minimum, or the doctoral committee may require additional coursework in specified areas. For students admitted to the PhD program who do not have a master's degree, they will be required to complete a minimum of 78 graduate hours.

³ The "Research Apprenticeship" and "Cultural Diversity" are adapted from University of Georgia's specifications for a PhD in Language and Literacy Education.