Higher Education
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education in the Department of Educational Leadership gives students a unique opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function effectively as an educational leader. Students are prepared for research and leadership positions in a variety of settings, including:

- Community colleges
- Doctorate-granting universities
- Master’s colleges and universities
- Baccalaureate colleges
- Special focus institutions
- Tribal colleges
- Educational policy and research consortia
- State and federal government entities

The Higher Education doctoral programs (Ph.D. and Ed.D.) prepare students for mid-level and upper administrative positions in academic affairs, student affairs, and state or federal government education. Both programs provide students with the tools they need to perform in the areas of:

- Undergraduate and graduate program administration
- Student support services
- College leadership and planning

Admission Requirements
The following criteria will be used to assess a student’s application for admission into the doctoral programs in Higher Education. No single criterion can adequately predict a student’s probable success in graduate work; as such, candidates for admission to the doctoral programs are evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Completion of a master’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. Grade point average from all previous graduate work (minimum of 3.5 required)
3. Professional resume
4. Educational leadership essay
5. Statement of professional goals
6. Writing sample
7. Three (3) letters of recommendation
8. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
9. Students who have received a bachelor’s degree or higher from the United States or English-speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL.

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 12/19/2013
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
Degree Requirements

1. Students seeking the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Higher Education at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Educational Leadership Department.

2. The Ph.D. program in Higher Education is designed for students preparing for positions in which research and creative experience are predominant interests. Ph.D. candidates are expected to have undertaken and completed independent research leading to an original contribution of knowledge in the field. It is generally expected that the Ph.D. dissertation will be publishable. This degree option typically provides preparation for those who aspire to leadership positions in higher education, in government agencies, or in other educational policy organizations.

3. A minimum of 90 semester credit hours of course work beyond the bachelor’s degree.

4. Maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA for all classes completed as a graduate student.

5. Completion of a dissertation, which incorporates independent work that is an original contribution to knowledge.

6. With approval of a student’s Faculty Advisory Committee, up to 30 credits from a master’s degree may be transferred from another institution.

7. Successful completion of comprehensive examinations in Educational Leadership and Educational Research.

8. Successful completion of a final examination.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

Margaret Healy, Ph.D., Learning outcomes; assessment and evaluation; rural higher education; student affairs leadership

Daniel R. Rice, Ph.D., Academic administration; ethics and higher education; institutional improvement; community schools

Jeffrey Sun, J.D., Ph.D., Higher education law; "academetrics"; higher education management and organizations

Deborah Worley, Ph.D., Career pathways; student success beyond the college years; women in higher education

Contact Information

Dr Margaret Healy
Graduate Program Director
Educational Leadership
Education Building, Room 360
231 Centennial Drive, Stop 7189
Grand Forks, ND 58202
Ph: 701-777-4391
margaret.healy@email.und.edu
http://education.und.edu/educational-leadership/higher-education.cfm

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