EDUCATION POLICY AND EQUITY, PH.D.

Education Policy and Equity (EPE) is an in-residence, interdisciplinary doctoral degree program at Saint Louis University focused on advanced training in education and social science research methods where students learn to evaluate educational practices and analyze issues in education policy from a social justice perspective.

Students take core courses in educational policy, history, and practice; interdisciplinary electives in economics, sociology, political science, and law; and advanced-level quantitative and qualitative research courses. As a result, students develop a specialization and conduct research that combines education policy questions with equity frameworks.

Defining features of SLU’s education policy and equity Ph.D. program include methodological rigor, opportunities for firsthand experiences in schools, student-faculty research collaboration, and commitment to the goal of creating a more equitable system of education for all students.

Curriculum Overview

SLU’s Ph.D. in education policy and equity offers flexibility for students to select courses that align with their individual interests and to specialize while meeting the specific requirements of the degree. This flexibility allows students from varied backgrounds to develop research that arises from their experiences and reflects their strengths. Through seminar-style instruction, students engage in collaborative problem-solving and discussion across ideological and policy differences—both key skills for education policy professionals.

Students in SLU’s education policy and equity Ph.D. program develop a solid theoretical foundation along with an ability to conceptualize problems through different disciplinary perspectives and apply advanced research techniques to the study of issues in education policy. At the same time, they gain familiarity with the processes by which education policies are created and implemented, and how they influence various populations.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Students in the education policy and equity Ph.D. program have the opportunity to conduct research that can inform policy and influence students and schools.

Together with faculty members from SLU’s School of Education, students:

- Collaborate with local schools, districts, and educational partners to conduct original research that reflects a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Support school and community leaders in making data-driven decisions by gathering and analyzing educational data, conducting program evaluations, and disseminating evidence,
- Publish research findings in academic journals and conference proceedings as well as through the PRiME Center at SLU, a policy research center within SLU’s School of Education which serves as a resource for state lawmakers, educators, administrators, and other leaders who make critical policy decisions for K-12 education in the state of Missouri.

Careers

SLU’s education policy and equity Ph.D. program prepares students for careers in academia, public service, and the nonprofit sector. Graduates are trained as scholars with the research skills and content knowledge required for jobs such as university faculty in education policy or related programs; researchers at university research centers; researchers at think tanks and foundations; and directors of research departments in local, state, and federal education agencies.

Admission Requirements

Apply Now (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php)

- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE or other applicable graduate entry exam scores
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/graduate/english-language-proficiency/)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Please note that application deadlines for this program differ for international students.

Review Process

A committee reviews each application.

Application Deadlines

Domestic students should apply for the fall semester by June 15.
International students should apply by May 1 for the fall semester.

Review Process

A committee reviews each application wholly.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantships, applicants should complete their applications by January 15.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/)
Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to evaluate issues in education policy and their impact on educational outcomes for students, with an emphasis on marginalized groups.
2. Graduates will be able to design and execute policy research that extends the knowledge base in education policy and equity.
3. Graduates will be able to evaluate competing theoretical frameworks that are employed in the design of education policy research.
4. Graduates will be able to identify forms of inequity (racial, gender, class, ability, etc.) in education policy and the effect of inequity on student outcomes.
5. Graduates will be able to apply research tools and methods to analyze educational problems.

Requirements

The Ph.D. in Education Policy and Equity is a 66-credit (54 credits of coursework plus 12 credits of dissertation research) degree program beyond the bachelor's degree. As such, we may accept students into the coursework program and require 12 credits of dissertation research. As such, we may accept students into the coursework program and require 12 credits of dissertation research. For students admitted with master's degrees, we follow SLU's advanced standing policy and allow students to petition for advanced standing.

Data from the course catalog, including credits for each course.

Non-Course Requirements

- Students must pass a Research Methods Qualifying Exam after Semester 3.
- Students must pass doctoral comprehensive exams (including both oral and written components) during Year 3.
- Students must pass an oral defense of a dissertation proposal representing a critical examination of a problem in the field of education policy, and
- Students must pass a public presentation and defense of their dissertation.

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.
EDR 6100 | Intermediate Applied Statistics for Education | 3
---|---|---
EPE 5250 | Contemporary Issues in Education Policy | 3

**Credits** | 9
---|---

### Year Two

#### Fall

EDF 5600 | Foundations of Urban Education | 3
SOC 6250 | Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy | 3
Research or Content Elective | | 3

**Credits** | 9
---|---

#### Spring

EPE 6650 | Applied Research and Reporting | 3
Research or Content Elective | | 6

**Credits** | 9
---|---

### Year Three

#### Fall

EDF 6650 | Seminar: History of American Education | 3
EDR 6350 | Measurement and Evaluation of Educational Outcomes | 3
SOC 5850 | Policy Evaluation and Assessment | 3

**Credits** | 9
---|---

#### Spring

EPE 6250 | Economics of Education | 3
EDR 6400 | Advanced Qual Research for Ed | 3
Research or Content Elective | | 3

**Credits** | 9
---|---

### Year Four

#### Fall

EDR 6990 | Dissertation Research | 6

**Credits** | 6
---|---

#### Spring

EDR 6990 | Dissertation Research | 6

**Credits** | 6
---|---

**Total Credits** | 66

### Content Electives (or other approved courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAW 8720</td>
<td>Education Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDF 6050</td>
<td>Multicultural Issues in Public Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDF 6600</td>
<td>Education in American Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDF 6550</td>
<td>Principles of Assessment for Education Settings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDL 6140</td>
<td>The Politics of Education</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDH 5250</td>
<td>History of American Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDH 5400</td>
<td>Law and Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDL 6300</td>
<td>Advanced School Law</td>
<td>2,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDL 6200</td>
<td>Ethics of Ed Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6200</td>
<td>Urban Social and Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 6225</td>
<td>Urban Community Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 5171</td>
<td>Law, Policy, Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 6310</td>
<td>Policy Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Electives (or other approved courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5020</td>
<td>Frontiers &amp; Borderlands: Contact &amp; Conquest in the American Imagination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 6020</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (http://www.slu.edu/admission/)

For additional admission questions, please contact:

Saint Louis University School of Education

314-977-3292
slued@slu.edu