

# EDUCATION

## Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

A minimum of 36 credits (post-master's prerequisite) is required to complete the D.Ed. Students will be required to complete common core classes (18 credits), disciplinary specialization courses (minimum 12 credits), the residency requirement, and the Doctoral Capstone Project (minimum 6 credits, repeatable).

**A. Common Core** (18 credits). Completion of a set of common core courses designed specifically for the online D.Ed. students.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
EDUC 815	Foundations of Education Research	3
EDUC 801	Global Trends in Education Culture	3
EDUC 802	Educational Research Design	3
EDUC 804	Program Evaluation	3
EDUC 810	Quantitative Data Analysis Workshop	3
EDUC 811	Qualitative Data Analysis and Design	3

**B. Content Specialization** (minimum 12 credits). Content Specialization courses are intended to expand the student's knowledge base to an area beyond the focus of their existing master's degree. This requirement is intentional. To address problems of practice in contemporary society, practitioners are increasingly required to bring an interdisciplinary focus to identify, develop, and implement appropriate and practicable solutions.

Students will enroll in 12 or more credits of Content Specialization courses, dependent upon previous educational and professional certificates, degrees, and experiences. Selection of the Content Specialization courses will be determined in consultation with their program and faculty advisers and will coalesce with the focus of the student's ensuing Doctoral Capstone Project (see below). Students will be required to take the majority of this category of course work (9 credits) within a single thematic subspecialty.

The College of Education and other closely related M.Ed. degree programs delivered through World Campus currently offers a wide range of courses in which students may enroll. Given this extensive portfolio, it is not practical to list typical electives for all interested students.

**C. Summer Summit** Students will meet in person for a five-day summer summit at the University Park Campus to fulfill the residency requirement for online professional doctoral degree programs (see Policy GCAC-213 (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-213-residency-related-off-campus/>)). Each student will complete a minimum of one summit for the year(s) they attend. Students may complete the Residency at any time during their D.Ed. experience, with the strong recommendation that this be completed prior to their last year of their program (i.e., before enrollment in the majority of their credits for the capstone experience). The summer summit will engage students from all cohorts and include a series of workshops and professional development opportunities. In addition to addressing the residency requirement, the summer summit achieves two additional goals. First, the summit will enhance students' understanding of issues in educational research by extending competencies developed in course

work. Second, the summit will build community among students and faculty through academic engagement and social activities on campus.

**D. Qualifying Examination** For the qualifying examination, you will complete a portfolio that will be used to evaluate your past performance and potential for successfully completing the program. This exam is typically completed after the student has completed 9 credits but must be completed before the candidate completes 18 credits. According to graduate school policy (GCAC 704 (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-704-qualifying-examination-professional-doctorate/>)) you must:

- have a grade-point average of 3.00 or greater for work done at the University while a graduate student;
- have no incomplete or deferred grades;
- be in good academic standing and must be registered as a full-time or part-time graduate degree student for the semester (excluding summer session) in which the qualifying examination is taken.

**E. Comprehensive Examination** The comprehensive examination (See GCAC 706 (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-706-comprehensive-examination-professional-doctorate/>)) will take place after successfully passing the qualifying exam and the completion of the majority of course work but before you enroll in the Capstone Project course. The comprehensive examination must be scheduled within a year of completion of all required course work and no later than five years after passing the qualifying exam. To be eligible for the comprehensive examination you are required to have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 for work completed at the University as a graduate student and may not have deferred or missing grades. Working with the Culminating Experience Adviser, students will submit a written project proposal (15-20 pages) to the adviser, identify the Professional Doctoral Committee (following) and present an oral presentation of the project proposal at an in-person intensive session. The project proposal will build on the area of interest paper submitted for the qualifying exam and will expand the literature reviewed and propose a concrete project, including research activities to be undertaken for the Capstone Project (GCAC-702 (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-702-professional-doctoral-committee-composition/>)). An online oral presentation given synchronously in an interactive format is also required. The project proposal will build on the area of interest paper submitted for the qualifying exam and will expand the literature reviewed and propose a concrete project, including research activities to be undertaken for the Capstone Project. The committee will evaluate the quality of the proposed project.

**F. Doctoral Capstone Project** (minimum 6 credits, repeatable). Completion of a research capstone experience is required for the D.Ed. The research capstone project is expected to address problems of practice and engage students, practitioners, or leaders in an educational setting, as relevant and appropriate to the student's interests. This capstone experience should be an independent effort by the student that extends beyond their course work and will result in a formal written document. It is intended to support the student in gaining a better understanding of, and possibly provide solutions to, a local problem of practice in the student's professional setting. Students will complete their capstone projects through the Research Practicum course (EDUC 894), which may be repeated for credit: EDUC 894 Doctoral level research practicum (initial 6 credits required and additional 1 credit required in all ensuing semesters until a successful defense of the project has been achieved).

This experience will include support modules to benefit students as they complete their projects and degrees.

The final oral exam will be evaluated by the student's doctoral committee and consists of an oral presentation of the praxis research project by the candidate and a period of questions and responses. Questions will relate in large part to the praxis research project, but may cover the candidate's entire program of study, because a major purpose of the examination is also to assess the general scholarly attainments of the candidate. The portion of the examination in which the praxis is presented is open to the public and will be publicized and members of the academic community will be encouraged to attend.