

EDUCATIONAL THEORY AND POLICY

Degree Requirements

Master of Arts (M.A.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

Candidates who seek an M.A. in Educational Theory and Policy shall complete programs that will include studies in social theory, policy, and planning or in the social sciences or humanities.

A minimum of 36 credits is required, with at least 18 credits in the 500 and 600 series combined, and a minimum of 6 credits of thesis research (EDTHP 600 or EDTHP 610).

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDTHP 500	Proseminar in Educational Theory and Policy	3
<i>Research Methods</i>		
EDTHP 585	Research Design: Implications for Decisions in Higher Education	3
EDPSY 406	Applied Statistical Inference for the Behavioral Sciences (or another approved statistics course)	3
EDTHP 586	Qualitative Methods in Educational Research	3
Electives ¹		18
Culminating Experience		
EDTHP 600	Thesis Research	6
	or EDTHP 610 Thesis Research Off Campus	
Total Credits		36

¹ The elective credits may be chosen from a list of approved electives maintained by the program office.

Only 3 credits of EDTHP 596 may be counted toward the M.A.

A thesis is required. The thesis must be accepted by the advisers and/or committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>)

Candidates who seek a Ph.D. in Educational Theory and Policy shall complete programs that will include studies in social theory, policy, and planning, or in the social sciences or humanities.

A minimum of 57 credits is required:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
EDTHP 500	Proseminar in Educational Theory and Policy	3
<i>Research Methods</i>		

EDTHP 585	Research Design: Implications for Decisions in Higher Education	3
EDTHP 586	Qualitative Methods in Educational Research	3
6 additional credits approved by the program		6
<i>Theory Foundations</i>		
A minimum of 9 credits in 500-level EDTHP courses approved by the program		9
<i>Policy Foundations</i>		
EDTHP 587	Education Policy and Politics	3
6 additional credits approved by the program		6
<i>Focused Program of Study</i>		
A minimum of 9 credits in consultation with the adviser to prepare for dissertation research ¹		9
Electives		
The remaining 15 elective credits may be chosen from a list of approved electives maintained by the program office.		15
Total Credits		57

¹ Students will need to explain how the three chosen courses will have prepared them for their dissertation research. This justification will become a part of the qualifying examination materials routed to all EDTHP faculty for approval. The course work must have a unifying theme. It does not have to be taken in the EDTHP program.

Doctoral students must pass a qualifying examination, a comprehensive written and oral examination, and a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral students must also write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.