

Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies

Overview of PhD Degree Structure

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in Educational Studies is a 7 unit or 42 credit hour program comprising 2.5 units or 15 credit hours of course work (more if deemed necessary at time of admission), a 1.5 unit or 9 credit hour Comprehensive Research/Scholarly Portfolio (with attendant examination) and a 3 unit or 18 credit hour Dissertation. Faculty research strengths and areas within which students can focus their studies revolve around six interrelated themes that mirror recurrent pedagogical issues with which educational studies are concerned: curriculum studies, educational foundations and leadership, inclusive education, lifelong learning, literacies, and the psychological aspects of education. Students can concurrently anchor their studies in their 'teachable subjects', if so desired. The degree conferred is a PhD in Educational Studies, not a PhD in any of the themes.

Course Work

Courses deal with: foundations of educational inquiry, research paradigms and methodologies, theories, research methods, and focused educational studies. Students also will receive 1.5 units/9 credit hours for completing a Comprehensive Portfolio and 3 units/18 credit hours for completing a Dissertation, N=7 units/42 credit hours. Students also may take (and may be required to take) Special Topics and Independent Studies, if deemed necessary at Admission. In some instances, doctoral students may arrange to enroll in an existing topic-related Master course(s), augmented with doctoral level analysis and applications.

Year One (14 month residency, FULL-TIME)				Entire degree must be completed within 6 years
Summer Seminar One <i>(July on site)</i>	Fall Semester <i>(E-Distance)</i>	Winter Semester <i>(E-Distance)</i>	Summer Seminar Two <i>(July on site)</i>	
GEDU 9001/ EDUC 8013 <i>Foundations of Educational Inquiry .5unit/3 credit hours</i>	GEDU 9003/ EDUC 8033 <i>Doctoral Seminar: Contemporary Educational Theory .5 unit/3 credit hours</i>	GEDU 9005/EDUC 8053 <i>Advanced Research Seminar: Focus on Methods .5 unit/3 credit hour</i>	GEDU 9010/EDUC 8109 <i>Comprehensive Portfolio Examination 1.5 units/9 credit hours</i>	GEDU 9100/ EDUC 899Z/8990 <i>Dissertation and Oral Defense 3 units/18 credit hours Normally completed within 2-4 years after defending Portfolio</i>
GEDU 9002/ EDUC 8023 <i>Methodological Perspectives in Educational Research .5unit/3 credit hours</i>	GEDU 9004/ EDUC 8043 <i>Focused Educational Studies .5 unit/3 credit hours</i>	<i>Normally present portfolio to Supervisory Committee for examination by July 1st of second year</i> <i>Normally have 6-12 months after Portfolio Examination to successfully defend Proposal</i>		
<i>At time of admission, it will be determined if the applicant needs elective courses:</i>				
	GEDU 9006/ EDUC 8063 <i>Special Topics and/or Independent Study 1 x .5unit/3 credit hours</i>	GEDU 9007/EDUC 8073 <i>Special Topics and/or GEDU 9009/EDUC 8093 Independent Study 1 x .5unit/3 credit hours</i>		
GEDU 9010/EDUC 8109 <i>1.5 units/9 credit hours</i> <i>Assembly of Comprehensive Research/Scholarly Portfolio</i> <i>(in consultation with Supervisor and Supervisory Committee from July-June 30th)</i>				

GEDU 9001/ EDUC 8013	GEDU 9002/ EDUC 8023	GEDU 9003/ EDUC 8033	GEDU 9004/ EDUC 8043	GEDU 9005/ EDUC 8053	GEDU 9006 and 9007/ EDUC 8063/8073	GEDU 9008 and 9009/ EDUC 8083/8093	GEDU 9010/ EDUC 8109	GEDU 9100/ EDUC 899Z & 8990
Foundations of Educational Inquiry	Methodological Perspectives in Educational Research	Doctoral Seminar: Contemporary Educational Theory	Focused Educational Studies	Advanced Research Seminar: Focus on Methods	Special Topics (if necessary)	Independent Study (if necessary)	Comprehensive Research/Scholarly Portfolio	Dissertation

Comprehensive Portfolio

The comprehensive portfolio examination will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate the extent to which they have synthesized prior and emerging knowledge into a substantive conceptual, methodological and analytical awareness that enables them to successfully undertake and complete a research study that contributes to and extends scholarship within their academic discipline. Students will gather artifacts produced in the first four semesters of the program to demonstrate competence in five principal areas (see below). All elements of the portfolio will be initiated and completed as part of the doctoral program (i.e., work completed prior to the commencement of the program is ineligible). Normally, students will include two or three items from each of the five areas to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 items:

Five Principal Areas of Competence to be Demonstrated in Portfolio

General Knowledge	In-Depth Knowledge	Research Knowledge and Competencies	Professional and Collegial Competencies	Teaching and Instructional Competencies
broad familiarity with/understanding of prominent social, scientific and educational theoretical traditions and trends related to educational studies	thorough and detailed knowledge of a range of issues in their specific doctoral focus area (theme(s))	research competence and critical analysis of current research and methodological issues	a range of professional competencies that will enhance active professional engagement	a range of teaching competencies demonstrative of readiness to assume the role of teacher and mentor in academia and other educational/training contexts

Proposal and Dissertation

Normally, within six months (but no more than one year) after completing the comprehensive portfolio examination, candidates will submit a research proposal for the approval of the Supervisory Committee via a public defense. The research presented in the dissertation should constitute a substantial and original contribution to the study of education. Candidates must publically defend their dissertation at a final dissertation defense (includes an external examiner) within three years after the comprehensive portfolio examination, but no later than five years after entering the doctoral program, unless an extension has been granted.

Doctoral Program in Educational Studies

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Admission Requirements

- An applicant will hold a Master degree from a recognized university in education or in a related field of study (i.e., a cognate discipline);
- An applicant will normally have completed a graduate thesis. Applicants who have not completed a graduate thesis in a field related to their doctoral studies will be required to submit evidence of their ability to undertake research in education through the completion of a qualifying research paper of sufficient depth and scope to reflect their research competence; More information about the QRP can be found here: <https://www.nspdeducation.ca/admissions/admission-requirements/qualifying-research-paper-qrp/>
- Scholarly preparation to conduct research, normally including graduate level courses in quantitative and/or qualitative research methods and design;
- Three letters of reference, normally including two academic and one professional reference;
- A recent curriculum vitae indicating current initiatives in education, and any academic, scholarly work to date;
- A letter of intent indicating a proposed area of study from among the six interrelated themes and main pedagogical issues of educational studies (i.e., curriculum studies, educational foundations and leadership, inclusive education, lifelong learning, literacies, and the psychological aspects of education). Faculty research interests are available at respective university websites;
- A minimum of A- or 80% average in their highest degree; and,
- An interview with a selection committee that is a subcommittee of the IDAC may be required.

Qualified applicants will be admitted only if a suitable supervisor and program can be provided.

Admissions Process

- Applicants apply to the Inter-University Doctoral Program, identifying potential supervisors (with an option to rank preference) through the Doctoral Program Office, postmarked by November 15th for July 1st entry;
- The IDAC will review all applications recommended by respective Doctoral Program Coordinators and, by majority agreement, recommend acceptance of applicants to the participating institutions (including the identity of an appropriate pro tem advisor);
- The home institution of the pro tem advisor will inform the applicant in writing after March 1st, regarding the decision of the IDAC, according to existing institutional policies. This home institution will then become the Institution of Record for that doctoral student;
- Each pro tem (temporary) research advisor (likely the dissertation supervisor) will arrange a meeting with successful applicant(s) who have been admitted to the home institution. The purpose of this meeting (there may be several) is both to confirm the *Final Doctoral Program Plan of Study* (courses required by the IDAC), to be submitted to the Doctoral Program Office for approval by August 15th. Normally, these meetings also will entail discussions about potential committee membership (form to be submitted by December 1st) and initial agreement on which artifacts will be included in the Portfolio (form to be submitted by April 1st of the following year).
- Wait pool letters and rejection letters normally will be mailed during the first week of March.

In addition to specific doctoral program requirements and regulations set out by the IDAC and the IDGC, doctoral students are bound by the regulations and procedures pertaining to graduate studies at their Home Institution of Record.

Contacts

Ellen MacDonald
Doctoral Program Office
Ellen.macdonald16@msvu.ca / phd@msvu.ca
Phone: (902) 457-6564

Dr. Heather Hemming
IDAC Chair
heather.hemming@acadiau.ca

Glossary

Home University/Institution of Record – Students will receive a degree from one of the three participating institutions. Each student's home university is the institution where their supervisor is housed.

IDAC – Inter-University Doctoral Administration Committee – This committee comprises two representatives from each of the three participating institutions, and oversees the administration of the doctoral program.

Annual Admissions Quota – Normally, 10 students will be admitted each year: 4 at Mount Saint Vincent University, 3 at Acadia University and 3 at St. Francis Xavier University. Qualified applicants will be admitted **only** if a suitable supervisor and program can be provided.

Competitive Admissions – Normally, the IDAC will use a competitive admissions policy rather than a rolling admissions policy, but it can consider applicants on a case-by-case basis and may waive the fixed application date, if deemed warranted.

Diversity – A respect for the richness to scholarship that comes with student diversity will inform the admissions process. By necessity, the review of applications will be informed by the applicant's academic qualifications for a doctoral level program of study.

English Language Proficiency – To achieve success in this doctoral program, applicants will require strong reading, writing, and comprehension skills in the English language. This policy ensures each learner's ability to reach their full potential as a scholar and researcher.

Faculty member/applicant's prior relationship – When appropriate, a full disclosure statement of *a prior* relationship between the faculty member(s) and the applicant will be included in the individual's application package (signed by both).

Full-Time Status – The program is structured to be **full-time**, anticipating that students attending on a full-time basis can complete their degree within three-and-a-half to four years. Although the IDAC cannot prevent doctoral students from being gainfully employed during their residency period, it is inadvisable to do so given the intensity of studies during this timeframe, and the repercussions of failing a course.

The PhD in Educational Studies is offered jointly by Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and St. Francis Xavier University. Inter-University Doctoral Program students have the right to take courses and seminars and use the academic facilities of any of the three participating universities in accordance with their approved plan of study.

Completed forms should be emailed to phd@msvu.ca or mailed directly to:

Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies
(Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, St. Francis Xavier)
Doctoral Program Office, Seton 449G
c/o Mount Saint Vincent University
166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS
B3M 2J6

**INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
in EDUCATIONAL STUDIES**

Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

FULL LEGAL NAME: Please indicate your current name as well as any previous name. If you have had a change in name, such as through marriage or other legal change, appropriate documentation is required.

CITIZENSHIP: If you were born outside Canada and claim Canadian Citizenship, or status as a Permanent Resident or student Visa, proof must be attached.

Surname (Last Name): _____

Country of Birth: _____

Given Name(s): _____
First Middle

Country of Citizenship: _____

Previous Name (if applicable):

Surname First Middle

STATUS IN CANADA: Canadian
 Permanent Resident Student Visa
 Other (specify): _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of entry into Canada: _____
 (if applicable)

FIRST LANGUAGE*: English French Mi'Kmaq

Other (specify): _____

* Proof of proficiency in English may be required

MAILING ADDRESS and CONTACT INFORMATION: For correspondence related to this application, please ensure that mailing and contact information are kept current. It is the responsibility of the applicant to notify the Doctoral Program Office of any changes.

Address: _____
(Number and Street, Rural Route Number, Post Office Box)

(City/Town) (Province/State) (Postal/Zip Code) (Country)

Telephone (Home): _____ **Email:** _____
Area Code + Number

Telephone (Business): _____ **Fax:** (Home Business): _____
Area Code + Number

ACADEMIC HISTORY: Note: One copy of certified official transcripts from each institution attended/degree obtained and a complete Academic Curriculum Vitae also are required. A minimum of A- or 80% average in highest degree is expected; however, even qualified applicants will be admitted only if a suitable supervisor and program of study can be provided.

DEGREES OBTAINED OR IN PROGRESS	UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTION	DATE COMPLETED	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE

TITLE OF MASTERS THESIS OR QUALIFYING RESEARCH PAPER (QRP) (circle one): _____

DATE COMPLETED: _____ SUPERVISOR, IF THESIS: _____ UNIVERSITY: _____

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR QRP WITH THEIR APPLICATION FORM (QRP information available at the [website](#))

**INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
in EDUCATIONAL STUDIES**

Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION – Continued

REFEREES: List the two Academic Referees (at *least* two required) and the one Professional Referee who will be completing a “Referee Assessment Report” on your behalf.

Academic Name: _____ Position: _____ University: _____	Academic Name: _____ Position: _____ University: _____	Professional Name: _____ Position: _____ Organization: _____
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Please Note: 1. The applicant may also be interviewed by a Selection Committee prior to a final determination of admission.
2. Before entering a public school for research purposes, applicants are required to undergo a Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry check.

IMPORTANT: It is the applicant’s responsibility to become familiar with the academic and financial regulations governing graduate studies at the home university.

I hereby certify that the information provided on this application is accurate and complete. I understand that incomplete, inaccurate or false statements may cause my admission or registration to be rescinded. I also understand that admission requirements at the home university must be met before registration takes effect.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Please ensure the required documentation is enclosed or forwarded as part of your application:

<p>Required Enclosures:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Preference Form <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Curriculum Vitae <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Intent & Research Plan	<p>Enclose or Forward:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Encl.</td> <td>Fwd.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Certified Official Transcripts* (sealed)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">(*One copy each of undergraduate and graduate transcripts)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Encl.</td> <td>Fwd.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>3 Referee Assessment Reports (sealed)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Encl.	Fwd.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified Official Transcripts* (sealed)	(*One copy each of undergraduate and graduate transcripts)			Encl.	Fwd.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 Referee Assessment Reports (sealed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<p>Submit if Applicable:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>N/A</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Proof of Legal Name Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Proof of Citizenship or Status</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Proof of Proficiency in English</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Evidence of Research Competence</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	N/A		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of Legal Name Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of Citizenship or Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of Proficiency in English	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evidence of Research Competence
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<p>Application Fee (CDN \$100.00)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or Money Order payable to Mount Saint Vincent University																																			

FOR IDAC ADMISSION COMMITTEE ONLY

Application Approved for PhD Program: Yes No _____ **Start Date:** July _____
Initial and Date Year

Pro tem Supervisor: _____ **Home University:** Acadia MSVU StFX

FOR HOME UNIVERSITY ONLY

Name of Home University: _____ **Date Offer Sent to Applicant:** _____

Applicant’s Student Number: _____ **Applicant’s Response** Accept Did Not Accept

Initial and Date: _____

**INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
in EDUCATIONAL STUDIES**

Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University

PREFERENCE FORM

APPLICANT

Surname: _____ **Given Name(s):** _____

Address: _____
Street Address City/Town Prov./State Postal/Zip Code Country

FIELD(S) OF STUDY: Please identify your preferred field(s) of study within the six Doctoral Study Interrelated Themes.

- Curriculum Studies
- Educational Foundations and Leadership
- Inclusive Education
- Lifelong Learning
- Literacies
- Psychological Aspects of Education

POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR: Applicants are expected to consult with prospective supervisors at the three participating universities to determine *goodness of fit* with their intended doctoral research (see website for faculty research interests). Below, please identify potential supervisor(s) for your doctoral research. Note that applicants apply to the Inter-University Doctoral Program that is delivered collaboratively by the three partner institutions. They receive their degree from the university that is home to their supervisor (designated “home university” or “institution of record”). The IDAC can assign the applicant a pro tem supervisor on a temporary basis.

Name Of Potential Supervisor(s)	Their University
•	
•	

If previously enrolled at any of the participating universities:

Student Number: _____ at: Acadia
Student Number: _____ at: Mount Saint Vincent
Student Number: _____ at: St. Francis Xavier

Note: Letter Of Intent and Initial Research Plan: The letter of intent and initial research plan is intended to indicate perceived *goodness of fit* between the applicant’s research interests and the research interests of potential supervisor(s) and the themes of the doctoral program. The letter of intent must include information organized under the following three headings:

1. Originality and expected contribution to knowledge
2. Clearly explained and focused theoretical research framework
3. Well-described and appropriate research methodology *and* method(s)

The purpose of the application process is to determine (1) the quality of the applicant’s intellectual and (2) academic preparation for doctoral studies as well as to determine (3) the availability of an academic supervisor for the applicant. Applicants are reminded that all three categories must be in place in order to recommend the acceptance of any application.

I understand that the above information will be used in evaluating my application.

Applicant’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
in EDUCATIONAL STUDIES
Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University

REFeree ASSESSMENT REPORT

TO THE APPLICANT: Please complete this section before sending this form to the Referee.

Surname: _____ **Given Name(s):** _____
First *Middle*

Address: _____
Number and Street

City/Town *Prov./State* *Postal/Zip Code* *Country*

Field(s) of Study: Curriculum Studies
 Educational Foundations and Leadership
 Inclusive Education
 Lifelong Learning
 Literacies
 Psychological Aspects of Education

Name and Position of Referee: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REFEREE: The information in this report will be considered confidential. Please return the completed assessment report in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal to either (1) the applicant for inclusion with the application or (2) mailed directly to the Doctoral Program Office at Mount Saint Vincent University.

1. I have known this applicant as:

an undergraduate graduate student other (specify) _____

Length of time? _____ In what capacity? _____

2. In comparison with other students at the applicant's level, how would you rank this applicant?

The applicant was in the top: 5% 10% 25%

**INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
in EDUCATIONAL STUDIES**

Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University

REFEREE ASSESSMENT REPORT – Continued

3. Please rank the applicant on the following:

Place checkmark (✓) in appropriate column:	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	No Basis for Judgment
A. Academic Preparedness					
B. Ability to Communicate	Orally				
	Academic Writing				
C. Creativity and Capacity for Independent Thinking					
D. Industry and Reliability					
E. Initiative and Seriousness of Purpose					
F. Intellectual Ability					
G. Research Competence/Potential					

4. **(Academic Reference Only)** Some gifted individuals have mediocre scholastic records. Do you believe that the applicant's academic record is an accurate indicator of their academic ability? Yes No
(If answer is no, please explain briefly):

5. Recommendation for Admission to Doctoral Studies
 Highly Recommended Recommended Recommended with reservations Not Recommended

6. Please attach a separate page describing the applicant's suitability for admission to this program, and their potential for doctoral studies.

Referee's Name and Title: _____

Academic/University or Professional/Organization: _____

Tel: _____ **Email:** _____
Area Code + Number

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Form may be returned to applicant in sealed envelope with your signature across the seal, emailed to phd@msvu.ca or mailed directly to:

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Doctoral Program Office, Seton 449G
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166 Bedford Highway
Halifax, NS
B3M 2J6**

**INTER-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL PROGRAM
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First *Middle*

Address: _____
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