Ph.D. in Educational Psychology
Specialization in Developmental & Learning Sciences
(approved by the DLS Faculty, 27 March 2012, revised Sept., 2014)

The DLS program represents the theoretical core of the Department of Educational Psychology. Other programs focus on methodology (QQPM) or preparation for specific professional roles (counseling and school psychology). Although virtually all areas of psychological theory and research are potentially relevant to education, the program sees the psychological study of cognition, learning, and development as particularly crucial. Accordingly we prepare students with broad understanding of cognitive, educational, and developmental psychology and focused expertise on specific topics important to education. Doctoral students are prepared to conduct original research in their areas of expertise and to teach a variety of courses in psychology and education.

Doctoral students file a program of studies that must (a) meet the following minimum requirements and (b) be approved by the doctoral supervisory committee. Doctoral students work with their advisers in preparing a program of studies that meets program requirements and furthers progress toward their own goals. Doctoral supervisory committees have broad latitude to approve individualized programs of study that meet student needs provided they meet minimum program requirements. Other UNL Graduate Studies requirements also apply – please refer to the UNL Graduate Studies Graduate Bulletin and/or the degree requirements webpage:
http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/degrees/doctoral

We do not typically admit students to the doctoral program without a related masters degree and a thesis (or equivalent). Students with a bachelors degree, a strong background in psychology and substantial research experience may be admitted to both the Masters and (contingently) to the PhD program.

Core Courses (21 hours)

EDPS 991: First-Year Seminar (3 credit hours)
EDPS 850 or 851: Child or Adolescent Psychology (3)
EDPS 854: Cognition and Instruction (3)
EDPS 960: Advanced Cognition (3)
EDPS 961: Cognitive Development (3)
EDPS 962: Personality and Social Development (3)
EDPS 966: Psychology of Learning (3)

Additional Coursework in Developmental & Learning Sciences
(at least 6 hours)

At least two of the following:
EDPS 855: Teaching Learners to Learn (3)
EDPS 967: Motivation (3)
EDPS 963: Developmental Psychobiology (3)
EDPS 989: Psychology of Reading and Writing (3)
EDPS 991: Lifespan Developmental Psychology (3)
EDPS 921: Creativity and Talent Development (3)
Other appropriate courses approved by the supervisory committee

Methods (at least 21 hours)

At least 21 hours from the following, including at least:
   a) 6 hours in measurement/evaluation (with at least 3 hours at 900-level)
   b) 9 hours in research design/methodology including at least 3 hours in qualitative methods (at least 6 hours of these 9 must be at 900-level)
   c) 6 hours in statistics (900-level)

Common courses:
Measurement and evaluation:
   EDPS 870: Introduction to Educational Measurement and Evaluation (3)
   EDPS 970 Theory and Methods of Educational Measurement Evaluation (3)

Research Design and Methodology
   EDPS 900K: Qualitative Research Methods (3)
   EDPS 936: Mixed Methods Research (3)
   EDPS 900A: Correlational and Experimental Methods in Educational Research (3)

Statistics
   EDPS 941: Intermediate Statistics: Experimental Design (3)
   EDPS 942: Intermediate Statistics: Correlation Methods (3)
   EDPS 943: Multilevel Modeling (3)
   EDPS 971: Structural Equations Modeling (3)

Methods courses outside department (e.g., Survey Research & Methodology, Psychology)
Other appropriate courses approved by the supervisory committee

Research (30-40 hours)

EDPS 899: Masters thesis (6-10)
EDPS 995: Doctoral Seminar (12), leading to publishable manuscript
EDPS 999: Dissertation (12-18)

Additional requirements (0-12 hours)

Courses outside department (at least 6 hours, may be fulfilled via requirements above)
Coverage of ethics and human diversity (course or equivalent)
Substantial and appropriately supervised experience in teaching and in application. May be associated with practicum hours and/or assistantship responsibilities.

Total hours (including work carried over from masters) must be at least 90 hours.