

# Curriculum and Instruction (C&I)

## Program Objectives

### **Mission:**

The mission of the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) specialty within the IDP is to prepare candidates for leadership, teaching, and research positions in curriculum and instruction.

The EdD program prepares candidates to serve as curriculum and instruction leaders in public or private educational institutions and to teach in education and education-related programs in colleges and universities. Students gain leadership experience through internships in local school settings. The EdD is directed toward conceptualizing and applying research within professional practice. Dissertations are generally grounded in practical problems and focused on the goal of improving practice. The EdD provides greater flexibility for students who are maintaining their current educational positions by allowing students to complete their residency requirements during summer terms.

The PhD prepares candidates for academic careers in institutions that demand research expertise and an understanding of the theoretical foundations of curriculum and instruction. As part of their program, students typically participate as apprentices in an academic setting through teaching and research assistantships. To provide opportunities for socialization into the role of teacher/scholar, one year of full residency is required. Broadly speaking, PhD dissertation topics emerge from the research literature. While PhD students may take leadership positions in school districts and state offices of education, most will likely remain in Higher Education, engaged in work to further knowledge creation and dissemination within the field of curriculum and instruction.

### **Objectives:**

1. Candidates will acquire knowledge of historical and social-cultural contexts within which schools operate and teachers teach, so that they can be reflective about the appropriate ends of schooling in a democratic society and the implicit and explicit assumptions that underlie curriculum and instruction.
2. Candidates will acquire advanced knowledge of learning processes and the characteristics of students and teachers that influence teaching and learning.
3. Candidates will acquire advanced knowledge of educational leadership and critical educational issues, including the facilitation and supervision of growth by other professionals.
4. Candidates will acquire advanced-level content backgrounds within their instructional specialty area.
5. Candidates will acquire the skills to keep abreast of new findings through critical reading of the research literature.
6. Candidates will acquire knowledge of the range of research methods and analytical procedures and will contribute to new knowledge through valid educational research.
7. Candidates will apply knowledge and skills through supervised internships and research or teaching assistantships.