

Ph.D. in Education Policy - 2024-2025

The EDPOPH academic assessment plan lists four learning outcomes: (1) competence in social science research methodology; (2) competence in the subfields of education policy; (3) competence in research practice and publication; and (4) demonstrated ability to perform independent original research. Each learning outcome is reported on every second year. This year's report covers learning outcomes 1, 2, and 4. Learning outcome number 3, competence in research practice and publication, is scheduled for report submission in May of 2026.

Report for the year 2024-2025:

Learning outcome 1 (*Competence in social science research methodology*):

The students take research methods and quantitative analysis courses during their first year in the program. Following the first year, a research methods qualifying examination is administered to test competence in research methods and quantitative analysis at the Ph.D. level.

Results: Eight students sat for the research methods qualifying examination on May 12, 2025. Seven students passed the examination. Annually, the faculty discuss the content, method of examination, and preparation to ascertain if any adjustments need to be made to existing practice.

Learning outcome 2 (*Competence in the subfields of Education Policy*):

The students take courses covering the core theories, research, debates, and questions in each of the subfields (Teacher Quality, Education Accountability, School Choice, Education Policy, and Education Leadership). Following the conclusion of the third year, the students sit for an examination in which they must demonstrate a sufficient level of competence to pursue independent study of research questions within those fields to achieve Ph.D. Candidacy.

Results: Two students sat for the Ph.D. Candidacy examination (one in August of 2024 and one in January of 2025). Both students passed and were admitted to Ph.D. Candidacy.

Learning outcome 4 (*Demonstrated ability to perform independent original research*):

The students receive hands-on training through participation in collaborative research projects

in addition to courses. Following successfully completed field examinations (normally taken during the third year), the now Ph.D. Candidates develop an original research project and write a doctoral dissertation under the guidance of a faculty committee. Once finished, the students present and defend the doctoral dissertation before the doctoral dissertation committee in a public setting during the fourth or fifth year in the Ph.D. program.

Results: Two students conducted their final Ph.D. degree examination (i.e., the dissertation defense). The students passed successfully, finished their dissertation, and graduated in August of 2024 and in May of 2025, respectively.