Field of Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies

The PhD in Education Studies in the field of Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies enables students to develop a solid grounding in the foundational knowledge, theoretical and methodological approaches, multiple perspectives, key issues and current debates within a specialization. Specialization areas include: Aboriginal education; critical policy in education; equity, gender and queer studies; educational leadership; globalization and international education.

The program provides a critical understanding of the intersections between the specialization areas, as well as the interconnections between local, national and global contexts of each specialization area.
Why Western Education’s PhD?

This four-year, onsite program is designed for those wishing to:

• work with world-class faculty
• specialize in an area of study that is interdisciplinary and interconnected with local, national and global contexts
• develop mastery in designing and conducting research in the field that influences policy, theory and practice
• advance in academic or industry roles related to education design and delivery

Field of Critical Policy, Equity and Leadership Studies

Learn from world-class faculty how to combine expert knowledge and sound methods to conduct innovative research

Deepen your understanding of the research process and build expertise in your area of interest with elective courses and faculty mentorship.

Create a proposal for your own research study that outlines the problem, context, theoretical framework and methodology

Working with your supervisor, make a plan for your doctoral research and present it to your Thesis Advisory Committee for feedback and approval.

Carry out your research study, synthesize your results and advance the field by presenting and publishing your findings

With support from faculty, staff and your peers, conduct quality research using skills from the program and discover the relationships that will form the basis for your thesis defense and future roles in education.

Course Content

Three required courses:
• PhD Seminar (counts as two courses)
• 1 advanced research methods course

Three elective courses from the following list:
• Critical Policy Studies in Education
• Equity and Social Justice in Education
• Graduate Seminar in Leadership
• Special Topics: Globalization and Education
• Special Topics: Indigeneity and (De)colonizing Research

Qualifying Examination
Thesis / Dissertation

Admission Requirements

• Research-based Master’s degree in Education or equivalent from an accredited university
• Normally an “A” standing (80%) or equivalent in previous graduate work
• Evidence of previous scholarly research, such as a Master’s Thesis, Master’s Research Project, or Qualifying Research Paper acceptable to the Doctoral Admissions Committee and the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs
• Professional qualifications and work in an educational setting (teaching experience or other) is recommended

Learn More

Interested applicants are encouraged to learn more by visiting our website, calling the program office or emailing questions to the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.

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