

CFS PhD Program of Study

UPDATED JANUARY 2021

The PhD in CFS is a Doctor of Philosophy in Education degree. Doctoral students in the Children, Families and Schools concentration are required to take a minimum of 36 credits of Coursework (this includes, at least 6 courses within CFS, 4 research courses, and 3 electives), and at least 18 dissertation credits for a total of 54 credit hours for the degree. (There may be overlap in courses, for example, a research course might be offered within CFS, or research courses can count as electives). All students should take at least one course outside of the TECS department, preferably outside of the College of Education. Doctoral students must complete their individual degree plan in close consultation with their advisor and guidance committee members to fulfill the degree requirements.

Knowledge Base

CFS doctoral students must take courses or participate in approved professional experiences to meet the five content areas outlined below, as well as complete the 4 research course requirements, as outlined by the College of Education. These content areas are aligned with the professional competencies identified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Students will work with their advisors and guidance committee to select courses that fit into these content areas. Examples of courses meeting the requirements are listed in italics. *These listings are not comprehensive and are intended as suggestions/exemplars only.*

Child Development and Learning (at least two courses)

Possible courses that address this competency include:

- *EDUC 714 (Thinking & Learning in Childhood)*
- *EDUC 697R (Contemporary issues in Early Childhood Education)*

Building Family and Community Relationships (at least one course)

Possible courses that address this competency:

- *HUMDEV 773 (Research and Theory in Early Childhood and Family Studies)*
- *EDUC 795G (Anthropology of Childhood)*

Observing, Documenting and Assessment (at least one course)

Possible courses that address this competency:

- *EDUC 608 (Classroom Management for Early Childhood and Elementary Classroom)*
- *EDUC 794D (Discourse Analysis)*

Teaching and Learning (at least 2 courses)

Possible courses that address this competency include:

- *EDUC 792P (Seminar on Literacy)*
- *EDUC 615AK (Inclusive Classroom)*
- *Any course in subject-specific pedagogy at the 600 level or higher*

Elective courses (3 courses required)

Students will work with their advisor to find elective courses that support their academic development. These can be taken either in another concentration, department or in another College at the university. Courses must be above 600 level.

Growing as a Professional

This requirement is experiential. The specifics may be negotiated with the advisor and guidance committee members and will be explicitly documented in detail as part of the candidate's degree plan as a pre-requisite for beginning preparation for comprehensive examinations. Competencies may be met by completing some or all of the following:

- Attending and presenting at local, national or international conferences in the field;
- Writing a research or theoretical paper for a practitioner audience;
- Being a mentored research or teaching assistant in the concentration.
- Take a course that focuses on academic writing. Examples include: *EDUC 691D (Writing for Publication: Ethnographically Representing Research)*, *EDUC 847 (Advanced Qualitative Thinking & Writing)*.

Research Methods

CFS Doctoral students are required to take four research methods courses that include both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. At least two courses must be quantitative, and two must be qualitative. Students work with their advisors to take courses that fit their research design interests and goals. Our students frequently take:

Qualitative Research

- *EDUC 619 (Qualitative Research Methods)*
- *EDUC 797A (Qualitative Data Analysis)*
- *EDUC 794D (Discourse Analysis)*
- *EDUC 815 (Ethnography), 2 Semester Sequence*

Quantitative Research

- *EDUC 555 (Introduction to Statistics I)*
- *EDUC 656 (Introduction to Statistics II)*
- *EDUC 652 (Mixed Methods)*
- *EDUC 661 (Quantitative Research Methods)*
- *EDUC 671 (Survey Research Methods)*