



College of Community
Innovation and Education

Specialization Areas for Curriculum & Instruction Ed.D.

Students in the C&I Ed.D. complete 15-18 credits of coursework in an area of specialization*. Current specializations are listed in alphabetical order below, along with suggested course offerings. Keep in mind that not all courses are offered each semester, so students should work with their assigned faculty advisor to create a satisfactory plan of study. Prospective students are encouraged to contact the Specialization Advisor listed under each area early in the application process for more information.

Note: faculty members marked with an asterisk () are able to chair dissertation committees. Please visit the faculty directory to learn more about individual faculty member research interests and areas of expertise: ccie.ucf.edu/contacts/facultyandstaff/*

**K-12 teachers and administrators, please check with your district to determine whether your specialization area will qualify for a salary supplement upon graduation. Historically, the following specialization areas have not qualified for a salary supplement per Florida statute 121.021(22): Curriculum & Instruction; Global, International, and Comparative Education; Health and Human Performance; Instructional Design and Technology; Methodology, Measurement and Analysis.*

Curriculum & Instruction

About Our Specialization

The Curriculum and Instruction specialization provides students with a broad understanding of the factors affecting education and approaches to addressing systemic problems. For example, a student interested in curriculum development and contemporary instructional practice can explore current issues in curriculum theory and design, as well as theories of learning and instruction. Careers in this specialization area include a wide variety of instructional and training roles, including K-12, higher education, business, and private industry.

Students will work with their advisor to select four specialization courses.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. David Boote (david.boote@ucf.edu), to learn more about the C&I specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Karen Biraimah*	karen.biraimah@ucf.edu
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Gillian Eriksson*	gillian.eriksson@ucf.edu
Thomas Vitale*	thomas.vitale@ucf.edu
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Educational Psychology

About Our Specialization

Educational psychology is the study of psychological factors, such as cognition, motivation, and development, which affect learning and instruction to promote learning and optimal human development. Careers in this specialization are varied, including K12, higher education, and industry. Skills developed during this program will allow you to teach educational psychology courses at the college level; consult on learning, development, and instruction; provide organizational training; conduct research; engage in online instruction; and improve learning environments in a variety of settings.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Michele Gregoire Gill (michele.gill@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Educational Psychology specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Gillian Eriksson*	gillian.eriksson@ucf.edu
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Taylor Wenzel	taylor.wenzel@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EDF 6155	Lifespan Human Development
EDP 6213	Applied Learning and Instruction Seminar I
EDP 6217	Applied Learning and Instruction Seminar II
EDF 6216	Motivation in Learning and Performance
IDS 6504	Adult Learning
EDF 6259	Learning Theories Applied to Classroom Instruction and Management
EDF 6141	Human Intelligence

English Language Arts

About Our Specialization

The English Language Arts specialization includes the study of literacy, literature and diversity, and the role of language and writing in learning and teaching in English Language Arts and cross-disciplinary education. Additional areas of faculty interest and expertise include teachers' narratives, inquiries and reflective practices in local and international educational environments and professional development settings.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Elsie Lindy Olan (elsie.olan@ucf.edu), to learn more about the English Language Arts specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Nicole Damico* nicole.damico@ucf.edu
Jeffrey Kaplan jeffrey.kaplan@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
LAE 6296	Advanced Writing Workshop
LAE 6366	Advanced Studies in Adolescent Literature
LAE 6616	Trends in Language Arts Education
LAE 6637	Research in Teaching English
LAE 6936	Seminar in Language Arts Education

Exceptional Student Education

About Our Specialization

Welcome to Exceptional Student Education (ESE) at the University of Central Florida, a nationally ranked program. Our goal is to assure that all students with disabilities are taught by caring, dedicated, highly-qualified and knowledgeable exceptional special education teachers. The Exceptional Education concentration in the Curriculum and Instruction Educational doctorate (Ed.D.) program is intended for individuals who are engaged in working with individuals who have disabilities.

Please go to ccie.ucf.edu/exed/programs/#cert to obtain information about the graduate certificates in Exceptional Student Education.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Dena Slanda (dena.slanda@ucf.edu), to learn more about the ESE specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Mary Little* mary.little@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Intervention Specialist Certificate <i>(all courses listed are required; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EEX 6218	Diagnostic Assessment and Intervention Planning in Exceptional Education
MAE 6517	Diagnosis/Remediation of Difficulties in Mathematics for the Classroom Teacher
RED 5517	Classroom Diagnosis and Development of Reading Proficiencies
SPS 6700	Advanced Psychoeducation and Data-based Decision Making
Special Education Certificate <i>(all courses listed are required; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EEX 5051	Exceptional Children in the Schools
EEX 6051	Instructional Strategies Pre-K-6
EEX 6065	Programming for Students with Disabilities at the Secondary Level
EEX 6107	Teaching Spoken and Written Language
EEX 6295	Assessment and Curriculum Prescriptions for the Exceptional Population
EEX 6612	Methods of Behavioral Management

Gifted Education

About Our Specialization

The Gifted Education Program has responded to the need to train teachers and administrators at the doctoral level to meet the guidelines of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015) using the Key Principles of Teacher Leadership and the ADVANCED standards for Professional Development of Teacher Leaders set by the National Association for Gifted Children and the Council for Exceptional Children (NAGC/CEC 2014). Key research areas include an examination of critical issues about the identification, nature and development of Giftedness and Creativity; Curriculum Design and Services; Special Populations including the Twice-Exceptional Learner; and Socio-emotional Development.

This Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D, Gifted program is fully differentiated and includes personalized learning, curriculum compacting, training in teacher leadership and professional development of others, training in designing curriculum and research on problems of practice relevant to each candidate's research interests and educational context.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Gillian Eriksson (gillian.eriksson@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Gifted Education specialization.

Recommended Specialization Courses

Gifted Education Certificate	
<i>(all courses listed are required; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EGI 6051	Understanding the Gifted/Talented Student
EGI 6245	Curriculum and Instruction for Teaching Advanced, Gifted and Talented Learners
EGI 6246	Education of Special Populations of Gifted Students
EGI 6417	Guidance and Counseling Strategies for Teachers of Gifted and Talented Individuals
EGI 6305	Theory and Development of Creativity

Global, International, and Comparative Education

About Our Specialization

This specialization will help prepare students to engage in global and international organizations and programs such as NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), UNESCO, International Schools, etc. Possible careers extend beyond enriching curriculum and instruction within the K-12 environment and include a broad range of international opportunities. For example, graduates of this specialization might serve as program officers in educational development programs in emerging nations, or serve as technical experts in programs sponsored by the World Bank, UNESCO, UNICEF, or USAID.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Karen Biraimah (karen.biraimah@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Global, International, and Comparative Education specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Randy Hewitt* randall.hewitt@ucf.edu
Gillian Eriksson* gillian.eriksson@ucf.edu
Anna Wolford anna.wolford@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EDF 6809	Introduction to Comparative and International Education
SSE 5391	Global Education: Theory and Practice
EDF 6855	Equitable Educational Opportunity and Life Chances: A Cross-National Analysis
EDS 6365	Education and National Development
EDF 6886	Multicultural Education

Health and Human Performance

About Our Specialization

The Health & Human Performance specialization in the Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D. program provides advanced studies in the areas of coaching, strength and conditioning, training, exercise science, sport and human performance enhancement. The program is designed to prepare health and human performance practitioners for successful careers in teaching and clinical practice, particularly in leadership and supervisory roles. Doctoral students in the specialization work closely with an interdisciplinary faculty and experienced mentors.

Students interested in the Health and Human Performance specialization in the Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D. program typically come from the biological and health-related professions, kinesiology, exercise science, physical education, or athletic training.

The Health and Human Performance specialization in the Curriculum and Instruction Ed.D. program requires 54 credit hours beyond the master's degree. Students must complete 18 credit hours of core courses, 15 credit hours of specialization courses, 3 hours of Research Electives, and 18 credit hours of dissertation. All students must also complete the three required program milestones.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Thomas Fisher (thomas.fisher@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Health and Human Performance specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Thomas Fisher* thomas.fisher@ucf.edu
Anna Valdes* anna.valdes@ucf.edu
Mike Redd* redd@ucf.edu
Allison Redd allison.redd@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
PET 6357C	Environmental Perturbation & Human Performance
PET 6515	Assessment & Evaluation in Kinesiology
PET 6096	Youth Physical & Athletic Development
PET 6395	Program Design in Strength & Conditioning
PET 6690	Exercise Prescription for Special Populations
PET 5216	Motivational Aspects of Coaching

Students must choose at least three of the courses listed above. Students may also work with an adviser to choose at least two additional 6000 or 7000 level courses with the following prefixes: APK, EDF, EDG, EDP, EEX, EGI, EME, LAE, MAE, PET, RED, SCE, SSE, or TSL.

Instructional Design and Technology

About Our Specialization

Instructional Design & Technology is the science and art of designing innovative, effective, and engaging training and educational programs in business and industry, K-12, and Higher Education. The eLearning Track is designed for educators and instructional designers across settings. eLearning focuses on the design, delivery, and evaluation of high-quality e-learning materials that are used for both online and blended (hybrid) learning environments. The Educational Technology Track prepares educators in PreK-20 to become highly skilled at successfully integrating technology into the curricula.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Glenda Gunter (glenda.gunter@ucf.edu), to learn more about the ID&T specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Richard Hartshorne* richard.hartshorne@ucf.edu
Laurie Campbell* locampbell@ucf.edu
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Recommended Specialization Courses

E-Learning Professional Development Certificate Courses	
<i>(all courses listed are required; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EME 6613	Instructional System Design
EME 6507	Multimedia in Education and Training
EME 6457	Distance Education
EME 6417	Interactive Online and Virtual Teaching Environments
EME 6458	Virtual Teaching and the Digital Educator

Educational Technology Certificate Courses	
<i>(all courses listed are required; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EME 6507	Multimedia in Education and Training
EME 6613	Instructional Systems Design
EME 6053	Teaching & Learning with Emerging Technologies
EME 6405	Adapting & Integrating Innovative Technologies in Education
EME 6602	Integration of Technology into Learning Environments

Methodology, Measurement, & Analysis

About Our Specialization

The Methodology, Measurement, and Analysis (MMA) specialization area will help students develop their skills to conduct (1) empirical research studies and program evaluations with solid research designs to answer both practical and theoretical questions, (2) data analyses to provide essential information for successful decision making, and (3) develop and improve a variety of measures (tests, inventories, questionnaires and behavioral rating scales) to assess students, clients, consumers and employees.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Debbie Hahs-Vaughn, debbie@ucf.edu, to learn more about the MMA specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Haiyan Bai*	haiyan.bai@ucf.edu
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Stephen Sivo*	stephen.sivo@ucf.edu
Audra Skukauskaitė*	audra@ucf.edu
Bonnie Swan	bonnie.swan@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Advanced Quantitative Methodologies Graduate Certificate <i>(select 4 courses from the list; students must apply for the certificate; Apply Now)</i>	
Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
EDF 7405*	Quantitative Methods II
EDF 7406	Multivariate Statistics in Education
EDF 7410**	Application of Nonparametric and Categorical Data Analysis in Education
EDF 7415***	Latent Variable Modeling in Education
EDF 7427	Psychometrics
EDF 7463	Analysis of Survey, Record, and Other Qualitative Data
EDF 7474*	Multilevel Data Analysis in Education
EDF 7476	Advanced Research Methods
EDF 7488***	Monte Carlo Simulation Research in Education
EDF 7489	Quantitative Research Synthesis
*Evenings (begins 5:30pm or later) **Video Mode ***Evenings and video mode	

Reading Education

About Our Specialization

Graduates of the UCF Ed.D. Curriculum & Instruction, Reading Education specialization, will be prepared to address the intersections of theory, research, policy, and practice. As a result, they will have a number of career options in any of the following sample areas:

- a. Reading/Literacy leadership in educational settings (e.g., K-12, district, higher education, community, state, or federal government agencies).
- b. Leadership positions in professional and non-profit organizations (including centers, foundations, and consulting organizations) that advocate for children's reading/literacy development and services.
- c. A variety of educational and administrative careers in the public and private sectors, government, academia, and non-profits that strive for social change related to reading/literacy.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Vicky Zygouris-Coe (vassiliki.zygouris-coe@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Reading Education specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Michelle Kelley*	michelle.kelley@ucf.edu
Karri Williams*	karri.williams@ucf.edu
Andrea Gelfuso*	andrea.gelfuso@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Before taking these courses, students must complete M.Ed. Reading Education or the equivalent (to be determined by program area advisor).

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
RED 7797	Theoretical Processes of Reading Comprehension
RED 7743	Reading and Writing Processes
RED 7648	Analysis and Evaluation of Trends and Issues in Literacy Education
RED 7745	Research in Reading Education Seminar
RED 7697	Literacy for the Twenty-First Century

Social Science Education

About Our Specialization

The Social Science Education specialization in the Education Ed.D. program is designed to prepare social science educators for successful careers in teaching and research. The program assists students in furthering careers in K-12 teaching, curriculum & leadership roles in schools and districts, and college/university curriculum and supervision roles. Doctoral students in the track engage in activities with an interdisciplinary faculty and are mentored by experienced and successful university education faculty.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. William Russell (russell@ucf.edu), to learn more about the Social Science Education specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Scott Waring* scott.waring@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
SSE 6348	Foundations and Fundamentals of Teaching History in the K-12 Classroom
SSE 6396	Teaching with Primary Sources in the History Classroom
SSE 6387	Teaching with Film
SSE 6636	Contemporary Social Science Education

TESOL

About Our Specialization

The TESOL specialization offers in-depth study and field-based experiences in the research, theory, and practice of second language teaching and learning. The degree is intended for professionals in the TESOL field who work in a variety of settings, including schools, colleges, universities, and industry. The program prepares students to research and develop practice-based solutions concerning issues in the TESOL field, and to engage in data-driven decision making that leads to real-world solutions for second language learning.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Donita Grissom (donita.grissom@ucf.edu), to learn more about the TESOL specialization

Additional Program Faculty

Joyce Nutta* (co-advisor) joyce.nutta@ucf.edu
Michele Regalla* michele.regalla@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
TSL 6643	Dichronic Analysis of Second Language Acquisition Processes
TSL 6379	Second Language Literacy
TSL 6600	Second Language Vocabulary Acquisition
TSL 6252	Sociolinguistics for ESOL
TSL 7006	Second Language Teacher Education

K-8 Mathematics Education

About Our Specialization

The K-8 Mathematics Education Specialization within CIEDD is designed for teachers, teacher leaders, coaches, and administrators with positions connected to elementary/middle school mathematics who desire to improve the quality of teaching and learning in grades K-8 mathematics. The K8ME specialization is structured as cohorts of graduate students who engage in synchronous learning in a virtual setting. The cohorts are guided by faculty who are nationally recognized experts in the fields of mathematics education and integrated STEM education.

The program is designed to be completed in three years and includes 57 credit hours of course work and dissertation hours. The specialization in K-8 Mathematics Education is built on the foundational belief that each and every student deserves an education that is equitable, just, and inclusive.

Note: Admission to the K-8 Mathematics Education Specialization is every other year on odd years. The next admission cycle for this Specialization Area will be Fall 2023.

For More Information

Please contact the Specialization Advisor, Dr. Juli Dixon (juli.dixon@ucf.edu) to learn more about the K-8 Mathematics Education Specialization.

Additional Program Faculty

Lisa Brooks lisa.brooks@ucf.edu
Sarah Bush sarah.bush@ucf.edu
Farshid Safi farshid.safi@ucf.edu

Recommended Specialization Courses

Course Prefix and Number	Course Name
MAE 7805	Policies, Practices, and Structures in K-8 Mathematics Education
MAE 7817	Content Knowledge for Teaching K-8 Mathematics I
MAE 7930	Seminar in K-8 Mathematics Education
MAE 7804	Content Knowledge for Teaching K-8 Mathematics II
MAE 7367	Instructional Coaching in K-8 Mathematics
MAE 7819	Professional Leadership in K-8 Mathematics