

Declaration of Commitment

School of Teacher Education and Leadership Doctorate of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.)

(distance doctoral cohort only)

A doctoral degree is the highest professional degree given in education. Potential students should be aware that the coursework, reading assignments, and research expectations in a doctoral program are extremely demanding. For every three-credit class, approximately six hours of out-of-class study a week may be expected. Thus, a typical semester of doctoral work in this program would require 12 to 18 hours a week of your time. Once coursework is finished, students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination and present a written dissertation proposal to a faculty committee. When the TEAL Comprehensive Exam is passed and the doctoral Committee approves a student's research proposal, the candidate may begin work on the dissertation. Distance students are required to attend some summer courses on the Logan campus. Ongoing communication (e.g., phone calls, video calls, in person meetings, emails, etc.) is expected.

The dissertation is a research project that makes a substantial and original contribution to knowledge in the discipline being studied. Students in the doctoral program are encouraged to engage in research that has immediate application and long-term implications for the quality of education in their communities and beyond. Once the dissertation is completed, a Committee of five faculty members critiques it and an oral defense of the research is held. After all revisions requested by the Committee and the Supervisory Chair and liaisons for the School of Graduate Studies are completed, the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in Education is awarded.

Students applying to the distance doctoral cohort (on even years) declare their commitment to enrolling in fulltime doctoral coursework (6+ credits) for two consecutive summer semesters on the Logan main campus to meet the doctoral residency requirement.
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The College of Education and Human Services is ranked among the top 2% of graduate schools of education in the country. The program will be academically rigorous regardless if you attend courses at the USU Logan main campus or at one of the USU statewide campuses.

I declare that I have read the above information and I would like to apply to the doctoral program with full knowledge of the commitment I am making.

Name (printed) _____

Signature _____ Date _____