

Ph.D. in Education Policy Virtual Town Hall

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November 4, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

The Department of
Education Reform



Welcome!



Agenda

- **Introduction to our department and Ph.D. program - Dr. Patrick Wolf**
- **Our Ph.D. program and application process - Dr. Tom Bennett**
- **General Q&A**
- **Q&A in small breakout groups with students from the program**

Why Earn a Ph.D. from Education Reform?

- 4th-ranked program nationally in Educational Evaluation & Research (*Education Analytics*)
- Distinctive features:
 - Free exchange of ideas buttressed by civil discourse
 - Reform orientation
 - Rigorous training in analysis, writing, presenting
 - Close faculty mentorship
 - Generous resources for student support
- 79% 4-year completion rate, 100% job placement rate



Program Overview

- 72 hours of coursework over four years, including 18 hours of dissertation.
- Prepares scholars for careers in academia, think tanks, foundations, and public service in the field of K-16 Education Policy.
- Students must reside at the University of Arkansas for at least the first 3 years; no part-time or remote instruction options.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

- Required for admission and cannot be waived.
- Must be taken within the past five years.
- Must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service to the University of Arkansas.
- The rigor of our program requires that applicants have combined verbal and quantitative GRE scores of at least 301 and a GRE analytical writing score of at least 4.0.
- We also consider quantitative GRE scores given the quantitative nature of our program

English Proficiency Tests

- A passing score is required for admission and cannot be waived unless:
 - English is your native language, or
 - You have an earned bachelor's or master's degree in U.S. institutions or in foreign institutions where the official and native language is English.
- More information about these tests can be found here:
<https://international-admissions.uark.edu/graduate-studies/english-proficiency.php>



Graduate Assistant (GA) Compensation Package

- Students who are awarded a Graduate Assistantship receive:
 - a full tuition waiver;
 - health insurance benefits; and,
 - a current annual stipend of \$18,000.
- GA students are required to perform 20 hours of research work per week.

Doctoral Fellowships

- The Department can also nominate successful applicants for competitive merit-based awards, called fellowships.
- A Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship stipend is \$22,000 per year.
- Doctoral Academy Fellowship stipends are \$12,000 per year.
- Fellowships may be renewed for up to three years following the initial year while maintaining normal progress in the degree program.

Applying to our Graduate School

- If you are ready to apply, your first step is to apply to our University of Arkansas Graduate School. An online application can be accessed here: <https://applygsie.uark.edu/apply/>

Application Materials and Fees

- You will need the following for submission to the Graduate School:
 - GRE test scores;
 - Official transcripts of all college- and university-level coursework sent directly from the registrars of the institutions you have attended;
 - At least two letters of recommendation;
 - An application fee of \$60.00.
 - Cannot be waived and is non-refundable.

Letters of Recommendation

- The admissions website has a function that allows you to invite people to upload letters of recommendation.
- These letters should be written by those (supervisors, professors, etc.) who are able to evaluate your capability to undertake a demanding doctoral program in education policy.
- Please ensure that all letters are printed on the person's institutional letterhead and are signed by hand.

Applying to the Department of Education Reform

- After applying to our Graduate School, your next step will be to apply for acceptance with our department. That application can be accessed at <https://edre.uark.edu/resources/pdf/edre-program-app-081621.pdf>
- Along with your application, you will submit:
 - An essay of up to 1,000 words describing your background and reasons for your interest in research related to education reform;
 - Your curriculum vitae.

Application Deadlines

- The Ph.D. in Education Policy only takes in students once a year, to begin in August.
- To be eligible for admission and fellowship consideration, all application materials must be received by the University of Arkansas Graduate School and the Department of Education Reform no later than **January 10th** in the year of intended entry (to avoid delays, we encourage all applicants to have their application completed by the middle of December).
- Applications for admission received after January 10th will be evaluated only on a space-available basis at the discretion of the department.

Thank you!

- For more information you can visit:
<https://edre.uark.edu/phd-education-policy/index.php>

- Follow us!



@ua_edreform

Thank You!

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