

# Ph.D. in Education Policy Virtual Town Hall

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UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

The Department of  
Education Reform



# Welcome!





# Agenda

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



# Why Earn a Ph.D. from Education Reform?

- 4<sup>th</sup>-ranked program nationally in Educational Evaluation & Research (*Academic 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.
- Successful applicants typically have a combined GRE score over 300 and an analytic writing score of 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 \$18,540.
- 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;
    - Unofficial transcripts can be submitted for evaluation.
  - At least two letters of recommendation;

# Application Materials and Fees (Cont.)

- You will need the following for submission to the Graduate School:
  - A departmental application;
  - A statement of purpose of up to 1,000 words describing your background and reasons for your interest in research related to education policy and reform;
  - Your curriculum vitae; and,
  - 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 people (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.

# 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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