Ph.D. in Education Policy Virtual Town Hall

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October 15, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | The Department of Education Reform

Welcome!

Agenda

- **Welcome to our Virtual Town Hall** – Dr. Harry Patrinos
- **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 pursue an Education Policy Ph.D.?

- **Have fun** developing your data analysis & research skills, collaborating with talented colleagues, & working with rich datasets.

- **Build a rewarding career** in public service, academia, non-profits, philanthropy, or think tanks.

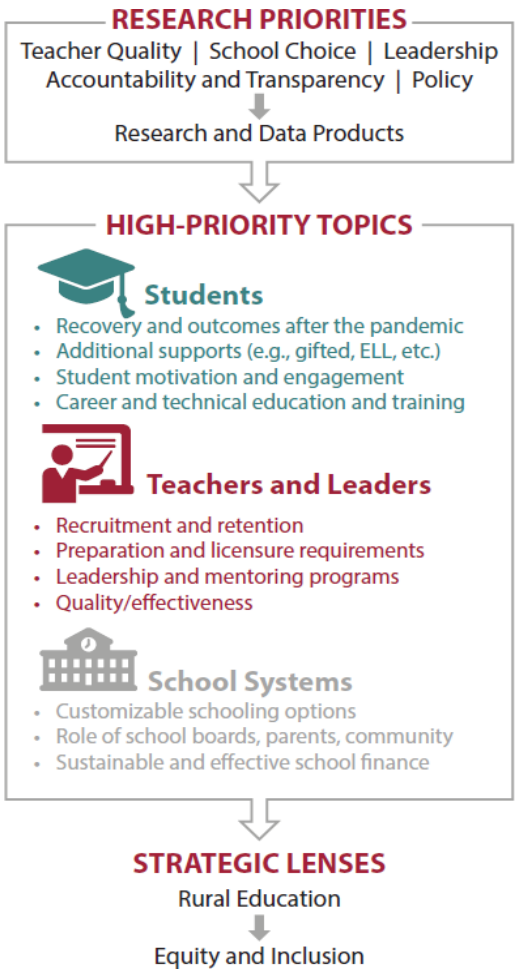
- **Make a difference!** Use your analytical skills & expertise to contribute to your community & improve people's lives through education policy.

Why choose the University of Arkansas's Department of Education Reform?

- We are a **top five program** nationally in Educational Evaluation & Research.

- Our doctoral program has several **distinctive characteristics designed to promote student success,** including:
  - Rigorous training in data analysis, writing, and presenting;
  - Close faculty mentorship;
  - Generous resources for student support;
  - Varied research topics and expertise;
  - Access to high-quality data;
  - Reform orientation; and
  - Free exchange of ideas in a diverse, respectful, and collegial environment.

- Our students **graduate and find influential, rewarding jobs**.
  - 76% 4-year completion rate
  - 100% job placement rate



Program Overview

- During our 4-year program, students participate in courses and collaborate on major research projects to develop the skills and expertise necessary to use research evidence to have a positive impact on education policy.
  - Students take 72 hours of coursework, including 18 dissertation hours.
  - From their first year, students participate in high-impact, data-driven research.
  - Students gain experience collaborating and communicating with policymakers and practitioners.
  - We provide ample opportunities and support for students to present their research at national and international conferences.

- Our program prepares scholars for P-20 education policy careers in public service, academia, non-profits, philanthropy, and think tanks.

Generous funding and support is available for students

- We have provided funding to ***every student*** in our doctoral program.

- Funding is renewable for up to 4 years and includes:
  - free tuition,
  - subsidized health insurance, and
  - total financial aid packages of approximately $40,217 or $50,217 per year.

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 $28,217.
- GA students are required to perform 20 hours of research work per week, with no teaching responsibilities.

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 & Departmental Fellowship stipends are $12,000 per year.
- Fellowships may be renewed for up to four years while maintaining normal progress in the degree program.

Start your application for our education policy doctoral program today!

- We are accepting applications now for our 2027 cohort.

- Below are key dates and application instructions.
  - Arrange to take the GRE **before December 2026**.

  - **December 11th** is the deadline to be considered for an **early nomination** Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship. This applies to applicants who meet the following criteria:
    - GPA of 3.75 or higher (all levels, undergraduate & graduate)
    - GRE writing score of at least 5.0

  - **December 15th** is the recommended application deadline.
    - Submit an online application to the Graduate School:
      - https://waprd.uark.edu/web-apps/uark/apply/
    - More details available at:
      - https://edre.uark.edu/phd-education-policy/admission-instructions.php

  - **January 10th** is the final deadline for all application materials to be received by the University of Arkansas Graduate School and the Department of Education Reform.

Application Materials and Fees

- Submit these 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, preferably at least one from a former or current professor.

Application Materials and Fees (Cont.)

- Also submit these 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 or resume; and,
  - An application fee of $60.00 for domestic students and $75.00 for international students.
    - Cannot be waived and is non-refundable.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

- Required for admission and fellowship consideration & 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 or higher.
- 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 from a U.S. institution or a foreign institution 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

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.

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/

Website and Social Media

- For more information you can visit: https://edre.uark.edu/

- Follow us!

@ua_edreform

University of Arkansas – Department of Education Reform

Thank You!

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