

# **PhD Educational Psychology & Higher Education Program Handbook**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education at UNLV! The Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education provides instruction in, and the delivery of innovative research, to inform the educational process from early childhood through higher education. Our mission is accomplished through: 1) Preparing graduates for leadership positions in diverse settings and roles, including faculty in colleges and universities, student services in higher education, measurement and evaluation specialists in public and private settings, school psychology practitioners at local, state, national, and international levels, and licensed administrators for PK-12 schools, 2) Providing foundational support for programs across the university including core content in the psychology of learning, motivation, cognition, problem solving, instruction, human development, and psychological and educational measurement, statistics, evaluation, and research methodology, and 3) Investigating educational policy and informing practice in PK-12 and higher education institutions. We are very excited you have chosen to help shape the future of education through your study at UNLV. This handbook is intended to serve as a guide on journey.

## **Mission Statement(s)**

The Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education provides instruction in, and the delivery of innovative research, to inform the educational process from early childhood through higher education. Our mission is accomplished through:

Preparing graduates for leadership positions in diverse settings and roles, including faculty in colleges and universities, student services in higher education, measurement and

## Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).

### Educational Psychology and Higher Education Faculty

## Program Information

Official program requirements are found in the Graduate Catalog.

Doctor of Philosophy ó Educational Psychology

Doctor of Philosophy ó Higher Education

Doctor of Philosophy ó Learning Sciences

Dual Degree: Doctor of Philosophy ó Educational Psychology & Juris Doctor

Dual Degree: Doctor of Philosophy ó Higher Education & Juris Doctor

### Contact Information

#### *Department Chair*

Dr. Steven Nelson, [Steven.Nelson@unlv.edu](mailto:Steven.Nelson@unlv.edu)

#### *Graduate Coordinator*

*Educational Psychology & Learning Sciences*

Dr. Michael Nussbaum, [Michael.Nussbaum@unlv.edu](mailto:Michael.Nussbaum@unlv.edu)

#### *Graduate*

*Coordinator*

*Higher Education*

Dr. Doris L. Watson, [Doris.Watson@unlv.edu](mailto:Doris.Watson@unlv.edu)

#### *Department Main Office*

Laura Canon, Carlson Education Building, [Laura.Canon@unlv.edu](mailto:Laura.Canon@unlv.edu), 702-895-5355

## Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding [admission](#), [coursework](#) and [culminating experience](#) are found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Doctor of Philosophy ó Educational Psychology

Doctor of Philosophy ó Higher Education

Doctor of Philosophy ó Learning Sciences

Dual Degree: Doctor of Philosophy ó Educational Psychology & Juris Doctor

Dual Degree: Doctor of Philosophy ó Higher Education & Juris Doctor

### Advisory Committee Guidelines

For programs that require a thesis or dissertation, a graduate advisory committee is mandatory and must conform to the Degree Progression Policies and Procedures provided in the graduate catalog.

### Degree Program Benchmarks

Information on Comprehensive Exams: Timeline, structure, grading scale/procedure, retake policy, along with information on Thesis / Dissertation Requirements and Culminating Experiences are provided below for each degree.

### Program Timeline

The credit hours and additional requirements for each degree are provided below. The timeline



## **University Resources**

### **The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development**

The goal of the Professional Development Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website

### **Academic Success Center**

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

### **Alumni Association**

With an alumni base 140,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

### **Commencement Office**

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process (UNL) or 2-0

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

### **Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)**

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer

## **University Policies and Procedures**

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the [Graduate Student Handbook](#), and following websites: