Doctoral Program in Elementary Education  
“A Distinctive Ph.D. Program in Elementary Education”

Program Description

This distinctive Elementary Ph.D. program provides doctoral students with opportunities to:

1) Participate in engaged scholarship through collaborative work focused on current educational issues with partner schools and community centers;
2) Develop integrated and interdisciplinary perspectives on elementary educational practice;
3) Work both independently and in collaboration with university faculty and school partners to pursue rigorous research agendas, publish in scholarly journals, and present widely at state, national and international conferences;
4) Explore innovative responses to key issues in the field by designing unique subject specific cognates within the program to target specific curricular interest areas (e.g., math, science, technology, literacy, reading writing, inclusion, leadership, ESOL).
5) Develop a keen understanding of powerful job-embedded professional development by working closely with school partners and university faculty engaged in innovative approaches to prospective and practicing teacher learning.

“We want to prepare our graduates to become the educational researchers, teacher educators, policy makers, instructional coaches, directors of professional development, and practicing schoolteachers who lead innovation that results in engaged, high quality learning in tomorrow’s schools!”
Academic Program Overview

The Purpose:
The Elementary Education Ph.D. Program is designed for educators who are interested in working in universities, school districts or local, state, regional, national, or international agencies. The program encompasses a distinctive approach to understanding elementary practice through research and innovation that unites school/community engagement and rigorous intellectual inquiry.

Admission Requirements:
- GPA of at least 3.5/4.0 in post baccalaureate coursework
- GRE Scores (min. 40th percentile in verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing)
- Three letters of recommendations (at least one academic and one professional reference)

Course Work:
- Advanced Graduate Seminars
- Research Methods
- Elementary Education
- Cognate (choice)
- Dissertation

Try us on for size....
If you see yourself as a future scholar and educational leader, we invite you to come to USF and take a look around our department and visit our partnerships. Spend a day or two with us. Sit in on graduate courses. Meet with faculty who share your interests. Visit with prospective and practicing teachers engaged in curricular/instructional innovation, and get a glimpse into what life as a doctoral student is like by meeting with current students.

Residency Requirement:
We all know that practicing educators’ work week is packed with instructional and leadership activities that leaves little time for the type of professional development offered by doctoral work. Each Ph.D. student is required to spend at least two consecutive semesters in full-time residency on the Tampa Campus working with prospective and practicing teachers (e.g., teaching coursework, supervising prospective teachers, facilitating professional development, researching practice, supporting innovation). Hillsborough County Public School educators who work in our partnership schools can petition to be admitted to the residency program as part of their work in the partnership.

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