

# CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS - PH.D.

College of Education and Human Services  
 School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies  
[www.kent.edu/ehs/tlcs](http://www.kent.edu/ehs/tlcs)

## About This Program

Empower yourself as a thought leader in education with our Ph.D. degree in Cultural Foundations, offering a comprehensive curriculum that prepares you to critically examine, interpret and shape educational policies and practices, driving positive change in the field. Read more...

## Contact Information

- **Natasha Levinson** | [nlevinso@kent.edu](mailto:nlevinso@kent.edu) | 330-672-0592
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - Mostly online
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Education administrators, postsecondary

- 1.7% slower than the average
- 226,600 number of jobs
- \$103,960 potential earnings

### Education administrators, kindergarten through secondary

- -1.5% decline
- 333,300 number of jobs
- \$104,070 potential earnings

### Education administrators, all other

- 2.5% slower than the average
- 60,200 number of jobs
- \$89,040 potential earnings

### Education teachers, postsecondary

- 2.1% slower than the average
- 74,900 number of jobs
- \$72,090 potential earnings

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at

which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.500 graduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Goal statement that describes applicants' educational background, their motivation for pursuing a doctorate in the cultural foundations of education, how they learned about this program and how they think this program will help them pursue their goals
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which should be from a former instructor if possible
- Writing sample (*starting with spring 2027 admission term, writing sample is no longer required*)
- Interview
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:<sup>1</sup>
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 DET score

Applicants will be assessed holistically, considering academic credentials, related professional experience, academic or professional references, scholarly activities and professional activities, among others.

<sup>1</sup> International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Priority deadline: March 15
- **Spring Semester**
  - Priority deadline: October 15
- **Summer Term**
  - Priority deadline: February 1

*All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted by this deadline will receive the strongest consideration for admission.*

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
CULT 80050	HUMANITIES-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN EDUCATION	3
CULT 80080	DISSERTATION PREPARATION AND SCHOLARLY DEVELOPMENT	3

CULT 89581	INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION	3
Research Electives, choose from the following:		6
CULT 80040	APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY-ENGAGED INQUIRY	
ENG 85042	DISCOURSE ANALYSIS	
HIST 81070	WRITING SEMINAR IN HISTORY	
RMS 78807	PROGRAM EVALUATION	
RMS 85516	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	
RMS 85520	MIXED METHODS RESEARCH	
RMS 85560	CRITICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH	
Research, Measurement and Statistics (RMS) doctoral-level courses approved by advisor		
Specialized Research Elective, choose from the following		3
CULT 80040	APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY-ENGAGED INQUIRY	
ENG 85042	DISCOURSE ANALYSIS	
HIST 81070	WRITING SEMINAR IN HISTORY	
RMS 78807	PROGRAM EVALUATION	
RMS 85518	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
RMS 85520	MIXED METHODS RESEARCH	
RMS 85560	CRITICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH	
Other course approved by faculty advisor		
Cultural Foundations Electives, choose from the following:		27
CULT 70093	VARIABLE TOPIC WORKSHOP IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
CULT 76001	PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF COMMUNITY INCLUSION	
CULT 77015	DISABILITY, SOCIETY AND CULTURE	
CULT 79491	SEMINAR: CLASSICS IN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION	
CULT 79530	MULTICULTURAL THEORIES AND SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION	
CULT 79564	HISTORY OF UNITED STATES EDUCATION	
CULT 79575	ANTHROPOLOGY AND EDUCATION	
CULT 79791	SEMINAR: CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION	
CULT 80030	SOCIAL CONTEXTS OF EDUCATION: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND THEORY	
CULT 80040	APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY-ENGAGED INQUIRY	
CULT 89521	MULTICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE AND POLICY	
CULT 89522	ETHICS IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	
CULT 89582	SOCIAL THEORIES IN EDUCATION	
CULT 89592	ADVANCED PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
CULT 89595	SPECIAL TOPICS IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
CULT 89596	INDIVIDUAL INVESTIGATION IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
CULT 89598	RESEARCH IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
CULT 89691	VARIABLE CONTENT SEMINAR: GREAT IDEAS IN EDUCATION	
Other courses approved by faculty advisor		
<i>Culminating Requirement</i>		
CULT 80199	DISSERTATION I <sup>1</sup>	30
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>75</b>

<sup>1</sup> Upon admission to candidacy each doctoral candidate, must register for CULT 80199. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for Dissertation I for a total of 30 credit hours, and thereafter CULT 80299, each semester until all requirements for the degree have been met.

## Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- After admission to the program, students plan a program of study with their respective faculty advisory committee headed by their advisor. A midpoint formative review presentation, comprehensive exam and dissertation are required for graduation.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Analyze the dynamic historical, social, cultural, economic and political contexts of education in and out of school from normative, interpretive and critical perspectives.
2. Examine the philosophical, ethical, social and cultural dimensions of education.
3. Develop expertise in the range of social science and humanities-oriented research methods and modes of analysis in the field of social foundations of education.
4. Conduct independent research that makes a contribution to original knowledge in the field as well as the intellectual and organizational aspects of their professions, schools and communities.

## Full Description

The Ph.D. degree in Cultural Foundations engages students in analyzing the dynamic historical, social, cultural, economic and political contexts of education in and out of school from normative, interpretive and critical perspectives. Students also examine the philosophical, ethical, social and cultural dimensions of education and develop expertise in the range of social science and humanities-oriented research methods and modes of analysis in the field of social foundations of education.

Students in the doctoral program work closely with faculty to apply their learning to their areas of professional and personal interest, generating dissertation projects that make a contribution to original knowledge in the field as well as the intellectual and organizational aspects of their professions, organizations and communities.