



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP &  
POLICY STUDIES



# HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION PHD PROGRAM

The mission of the Higher Education Administration (HEAM) PhD program is to offer advanced graduate study to those students aspiring to enhance their leadership knowledge and skill for service in their current positions; to establish knowledge and skill bases for more responsible and executive leadership appointment; and to build the capacity and inclination for active participation in policy for service in administrative, faculty, and policy scholar roles.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS PROGRAM:**

- small cohort sizes
- discussion-based classes
- meaningful content that translates to real life experience
- rigorous, professionally and academically challenging courses
- unparalleled support from faculty
- opportunities to grow into your identity as a scholar



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## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

**Program Requirements: 72 hours, including 48 hours of coursework and 24 hours of dissertation**

### ELPS Foundations (3 classes/9 hours)

ELPS 695: Seminar in Educational Leadership  
HEAM 629: Seminar in Policy Issues in Education  
HEAM 670: Values and Ethics in Educational Leadership

### Research Core (6 classes/18 hours)

ELPS 615: Research Design  
EDPY 577: Statistics in Applied Fields  
EDPY 677: Advanced Statistics in Applied Fields  
ELPS 618: Advanced Qualitative Research  
ELPS 612: Academic Writing  
Advanced Methods (Choose one or approved substitute)  
ELPS 616: Mixed Methods Research  
ELPS 617: Case Study Methods in Educational Research

### Higher Education Core (5 classes/15 hours)

HEAM 605: Advanced Seminar in Administrative Theory  
HEAM 619: Administration and Governance  
HEAM 650: Fiscal Policy Issues in Higher Education  
HEAM 695: Legal Aspects of Higher Education  
HEAM 695: Students in Postsecondary Education

### Electives (2 classes/6 hours)

Students must select at a minimum two graduate-level electives, in consultation with their advisor. These courses may be from outside the department.

### Dissertation (24 hours)

ELPS 600: Doctoral Research and Dissertation  
All students must enroll for 24 semester hours of dissertation to complete the PhD degree. Students can choose to take part in a traditional or a three-article dissertation format. For more information on dissertation formats, visit [elps.utk.edu/forms](https://elps.utk.edu/forms).

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Current Resume or CV
- Academic or Professional Writing Sample
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- 4 Short Answer Essay Responses
- Prior Transcripts
- UTK Graduate School Requirements

### Priority application date is January 1


For more information about admissions requirements for the HEAM PhD program, visit [elps.utk.edu/admissions](https://elps.utk.edu/admissions).



## CONTACT US

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