“The Ph.D. program at Texas State provided a supportive and challenging academic atmosphere with freedom to explore what interested me most. Earning a doctorate opened invigorating career opportunities that make this one of the most exciting periods of my professional life.”

— Nancy Thompson BEXAR AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The adult, professional and continuing education major educates scholar-practitioners who work in the broad array of settings served by the field of adult education.

This interdisciplinary field focuses on adult learning and teaching, adult development, program planning and evaluation, community and organizational learning and development, and a rich history and literature on adult learning/education and social justice.

Adult educators are found in community organizations such as libraries, museums and parks; government agencies; schools and higher education; foundations and NGOs; the business sector; social services; the military; religious organizations; social and community action groups; vocational education; media and technology; professional associations; or any setting where adults are learning or need to learn.
Course Work
Students from the adult, professional and community education (APCE) major are admitted as a cohort in the fall of each year.

The program consists of a total of 63 hours of which 51 are specified course work. All classes are offered in the evenings or on weekends for the convenience of working professionals.

Doctoral Program Course Sequence
• core courses — 18 hours
• major emphasis courses — 12 hours
• doctoral electives — 9 hours
• proposal writing — 3 hours
• research courses — 9 hours
• dissertation — minimum 12 hours

Graduates of the APCE major serve adult learners in a variety of settings.
They are likely to be engaged in or preparing for roles such as:
• directors/faculty in continuing education/community education in universities or community colleges
• directors/faculty in community education programs in libraries, museums, religious education
• program developers, evaluators and administrators in international development NGOs and international agencies
• directors/faculty in adult literacy and ESL programs
• university faculty (e.g. in the fields of adult and continuing education, community development, human resource development, organizational development, adult literacy, higher education)
• directors/faculty for continuing professional education programs
• directors of adult basic education/GED programs
• administrators/specialists of distance learning
• faculty developers in higher education
• professional development in various settings
• educators in the health professions (continuing professional education, patient education, staff development)
• learning specialists and organizational developers the nonprofit sector, business and industry, schools, government agencies, the military, religious and cultural organizations

Strengths in one area may offset shortcomings in another. A doctoral faculty committee will determine an applicant’s suitability to the program based on the following factors:
• evidence of complete master’s degree from a regionally accredited university in an area related to proposed studies with a GPA of 3.5 or higher for courses applied to the master’s degree (send official transcripts from each four-year college or university attended)
• demonstration of interest in a career as an adult educator and potential to contribute to the advancement of adult education through professional leadership, as indicated by:
  1. statement of purpose (about 500 words describing background and professional goals. This should include your rationale for pursuing a doctoral degree in education with a major in adult, professional, and community education.)
  2. a professional résumé
  3. an interview with program faculty
• three recommendations addressing the applicant’s professional and academic background (see form on program website, supplemental letter options)

For information about admission procedures and applications visit www.txstate.edu/edphd.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu for access to an online application and additional details. All application materials must be submitted by February 1.

Financial Assistance
Half-time doctoral assistantships are available to a limited number of qualified candidates. These require attendance as a full-time student. Contact the director of the APCE major, Education Program for more information.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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