The program provides the portal into the field of post-secondary student success. It provided me the knowledge and tools to make a difference for students who are underprepared. The transition from theory and research to practice was seamless. I live out my course work every day!

– Mary Helen Martinez, current Ed.D. student and Director of College and Career Readiness at Alamo Colleges

Through research, scholarship and professional experiences, the programs affect change in the areas of literacy, developmental mathematics and learning support.

Department Mission
The doctoral programs in developmental education prepare future scholars, researchers, leaders, administrators, instructors and practitioners in the field of developmental education. Both rigorous and supportive, the programs aim to advance theory, research and practice in multiple areas of developmental education — including developmental literacy, developmental mathematics and learning support — by actively engaging students in teaching, scholarship and professional service. In this multidisciplinary program, the faculty, staff and students work collaboratively across various academic disciplines, diverse communities and geographic boundaries.

Degrees Offered
» Ph.D. in Developmental Education
» Ed.D. in Developmental Education

Specializations
» Developmental Literacy
» Developmental Mathematics
» Learning Support

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Why choose Texas State?
As the first doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) and one of three doctor of education (Ed.D.) programs in developmental education in the country, the programs fill a crucial need for innovative research in a field that serves students underprepared for postsecondary education by valuing social, cultural and critical perspectives.

Doctoral students are frequently recognized for their research and scholarship. They win awards, fellowships and scholarships and present papers at regional and national conferences.

Course Work
The Ph.D. and the Ed.D. programs require 66 total credit hours consisting of:
» core courses grounded in developmental education theory and research
» research methodology courses
» specialization courses in the student’s preferred concentration: developmental literacy, developmental mathematics or learning support
» elective courses that reflect significant issues in developmental education and research methodology
» dissertation courses
Students enter in cohorts each fall term. Full-time students typically take 9-10 hours and part-time students take 6-7 hours until they advance to candidacy.

Faculty
Faculty research interests include:
» theoretical and applied issues of student motivation, emotion, learning strategies and self-regulation
» strategic college reading and the role of technology in supporting strategic reading
» post-secondary student success courses, interventions for students with learning disabilities, and demographic changes in higher education
» college transitional readers’ deliberate and non-deliberate responses to texts and conceptualizations of literacy
» the impact of professional development on instruction in the adult student transition to post-secondary literacy
» educational equity for youth and the intersections of formal and informal cultures in education

Career Options
The doctoral degrees prepare graduates for a wide variety of careers. The Ph.D. is designed for students planning careers as researchers, faculty and scholars who will build a strong research and theoretical base for developmental education. The Ed.D. is designed for students planning careers as highly qualified program leaders, policymakers, researchers and practitioners who will advance developmental education in a variety of contexts.

Important Deadlines*
Admissions
Priority Fall: January 15
Fall: March 31
Spring: No admission
Summer: No admission
Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/developmental-ed-phd