Developmental education has a multidimensional focus and is concerned with student issues of cognition, effect, identity and other aspects of the college context. Developmental education is about student success for college students, especially those underprepared or misprepared for the post-secondary educational context.

Texas State University offers both a Ph.D. and an Ed.D. in developmental education, with concentrations in developmental literacy, developmental mathematics and learning support. The program advances theory, research and practice in the field, valuing perspectives on learning and learners that include social, cultural, cognitive, constructivist and critical frameworks.

The program provides its student-scholars the tools to examine the current state of developmental education, define its essential role in post-secondary education, engage in research-based reconceptualizations of the field and create new theory and innovative practices. Through rigorous research, along with scholarly and professional experiences in an apprenticeship model, the program aims to affect change in multiple areas of developmental education.
**Course Work**

The Ph.D. and the Ed.D. require 66 total credit hours:
- core course work grounded in developmental education theory and research (Ph.D., 12 credits; Ed.D., 15 credits)
- research methodology (Ph.D., 21 credits; Ed.D., 12 credits)
- a concentration in either developmental literacy, developmental mathematics or learning support (Ph.D., 15 credits; Ed.D., 21 credits)
- elective choices that reflect significant issues in developmental education and research methodology (Ph.D. and Ed.D., six credits)
- dissertation (Ph.D. and Ed.D., 12 credits)

**Career Options**

The doctoral degrees in developmental education prepare graduates for a wide variety of careers. The Ph.D. is designed for students planning careers as researchers, university 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, research and practitioners who will advance developmental education in a variety of contexts. These degrees fill an urgent need for advanced research in a rapidly expanding field that serves students who are underprepared for post-secondary education.

Major educational objectives for the program include preparing developmental education professionals:
- who engage in divergent and critical thinking, are culturally competent and are skilled in maximizing technology applications for learning and communication
- who understand and can respond to the nature and needs of students who enroll in developmental education programs; the complexities of motivation, teaching, learning and assessment in developmental education settings; the cultural, political and social systems that create inequities in educational settings; and the structure and management of developmental education programs
- who have sophisticated research skills that will enable them to critically evaluate developmental education programs and practices and implement research agendas that will inform practice and policy
- who will serve as leaders in the developmental education profession and can engage in institutional leadership, program administration, and innovative program development and evaluation that will promote systemic change and improvement

**Program Mission Statement**

The graduate program in developmental education, within the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, prepares future scholars, researchers, leaders, administrators, instructors and practitioners in the field of developmental education. Both rigorous and supportive, the program aims 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.

**Research Mission Statement**

The research mission of the doctoral program in developmental education emphasizes the generation of research-based knowledge that describes, predicts, explains and designs theory, processes, practices and policies of developmental education. The program values epistemological and methodological diversity. Goals of this research mission include impacting the transformation of developmental education into a reflexive, theoretically sound, evidence-based academic discipline.

**Admission Policy**

Applications are reviewed with a concern for scholarly fit with program goals and faculty expertise. Because admission is offered only to the top-ranked candidates in a number sufficient to meet enrollment limits, not all students meeting minimum criteria may be admitted. Prior to applying, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the information about the doctoral program in developmental education, which can be found at [www.education.txstate.edu/ci/dev-ed-doc](http://www.education.txstate.edu/ci/dev-ed-doc).

Applicants must submit the following to The Graduate College at Texas State:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- statement of purpose: a 500-word essay that demonstrates applicant's research interest and goals as a developmental educator and potential to contribute to the advancement of scholarly work in developmental education. Include a discussion of relevant teaching, research and/or policy experience. The statement of purpose must include clear evidence of commitment to research and scholarship.
- three letters of recommendation that address applicant's professional and academic background
- current curriculum vita or résumé
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores. See [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/deved.html](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/deved.html) for more details.
- official transcripts from each college or university attended
- test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirement, if applicable. For the Internet-based test, the following are the minimum acceptable scores: 70 total score, with section scores of 19/reading, 19/listening, 19/speaking and 18/writing.

Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and a master's degree from an accredited college or university in an area relevant to developmental education. The master's degree must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Applicants admitted into the program who lack prerequisite background/content-area knowledge will be required to take background leveling courses.

**Financial Assistance**

Doctoral assistantships are available to qualified candidates on a competitive basis. For more information about assistantships, see the program website, [www.education.txstate.edu/ci/dev-ed-doc](http://www.education.txstate.edu/ci/dev-ed-doc).

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at [www.gradcollege.txstate.edu](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) and click on Financing Your Graduate Education.

**Application Deadlines**

New students are admitted in fall semester only. The application deadline is March 31 for the following fall semester. The priority deadline is January 15 for the fall semester. 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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education.txstate.edu/ci/dev-ed-doc