

# CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, PH.D.

## ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet** the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) **of the Graduate School as well as the program(s)**. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 1
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements ( <a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a> ).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

## PH.D. APPLICANTS

Ph.D. applicants are required to supplement the application with the items enumerated below.

- 1. Unofficial transcripts.** Unofficial transcripts from all previous postsecondary studies are required for all Ph.D. applicants. Unofficial transcripts should be uploaded to the application system. If an applicant is admitted by the department, official transcripts will need to be submitted directly to the Graduate School by the student's postsecondary institution.
- 2. Evidence of writing ability.** Ph.D. applicants are required to provide evidence of their writing ability by submitting a writing sample (master's thesis, academic paper from a graduate course, a journal article, or any other writing that the applicant believes can be used to judge writing ability). This should be uploaded to the application.
- 3. Three letters that include an appraisal of academic competence.** Ph.D. applicants are required to have three letters of reference assessing their academic and professional competence. Letters of reference written for teachers and other educational professionals ordinarily include an evaluation of their professional

competence, and the department values that information. In addition, the department needs letters that provide a knowledgeable appraisal of the applicant's academic competence and research capability. A student's former professors are usually best able to provide this, so the department encourages letters from such referees. Letters must be submitted electronically through the online application.

- 4. Statement of reasons for doctoral study and the names of one or two potential advisors.** Each Ph.D. applicant is required to upload a detailed statement of reasons for doctoral study and to pick the names of one or two potential advisors from a drop-down menu. It is highly recommended that applicants contact prospective advisors in advance of applying. Contact information can be found on the C&I website (<https://ci.education.wisc.edu/fac-staff/>). The statement should indicate the applicant's primary area of interest, professional objectives, career goals, and why the applicant is interested in pursuing a research degree in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The applicant must identify the desired advisor or advisors in the drop-down menu and it is recommended to do so as well in the statement of reasons for graduate study. This information is used to gauge the appropriateness of the applicant's program goals in relation to the department's mission and to identify prospective advisors whose research interests match those of the applicant.

If an applicant's statement fails to persuade a faculty member to serve as the graduate advisor, the applicant will be refused admission; it is, therefore, important that this statement be detailed, well-written, and matched to specific advisors and their areas of study that are available in the department. Please see this FAQ (<https://ci.education.wisc.edu/admissions-aid/graduate-admissions-faq/>) for more information about writing a statement of reasons.

- 5. Resume or curriculum vitae (cv).**

*International applicants should note additional requirements that are described in the International Applications section, below.*

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

The department has a long and successful history of working with graduate students from around the world. Over the last 25 years, approximately 130 M.S. degrees were earned by international students; students in this group came from 37 countries. During the same period, approximately 150 Ph.D. degrees were earned by international students in the department; students in this group came from 43 countries. Altogether, approximately one-third of our graduate students in Curriculum and Instruction are international students, which enriches the social and intellectual environment for all faculty and students as we continuously learn from each other.

In accord with Graduate School policy, applicants whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). An admitted applicant whose internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score is below 92, or whose IELTS score is below 7 must take an English assessment test upon arrival. They must then register for any English as a Second Language (ESL) courses that are recommended. For minimum required scores, please see the Graduate School's Requirements for Admissions (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) page.

## **EXPECTED BACKGROUND IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

A background in education coursework is a prerequisite for the Ph.D. program in Curriculum and Instruction. Applicants are required to have taken at least 12 credits in education courses that are equivalent to courses taught within a school of education, as judged by the Graduate Education Advisory Committee. Applicants lacking this background will be required to take a specified number of credits of education coursework in addition to the coursework ordinarily required in the graduate program. The courses taken should be chosen in consultation with the graduate advisor, and each of these courses must be taken for a letter grade (not pass/fail). These courses may be carried concurrently with regular graduate courses; but, being additional requirements, they do not count toward the requirements of the graduate program.