

# CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, PHD

## ADMISSIONS

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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 exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/</a> ). |
| Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)   | n/a  |
| Letters of Recommendation Required | 3  |

### PHD APPLICANTS

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 PhD 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.** PhD 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.** PhD 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. An applicant'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 PhD 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

International degree-seeking applicants must prove English proficiency using the Graduate School's requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>).

### EXPECTED BACKGROUND IN PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

A background in education coursework is a prerequisite for the PhD 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 satisfy the requirements of the graduate program.