Learning Sciences and Human Development, Ph.D.

Degree Offered

- Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

Scholars in the Learning Sciences and Human Development (LSHD) study learning and development where it happens: in classrooms and on playgrounds, in forests and in fields, in community centers and on street corners, at kitchen tables and in barber shops. Our empirical inquiries are guided by theories of cognition, development, culture, and design. Our program includes a diverse range of faculty from the LSHD department - as well as many faculty affiliates from departments across the college and university - to support innovative and interdisciplinary projects.

Our PhD program positions students for success through extensive research and teaching apprenticeships; support to accomplish authentic research milestones, including published journal articles and national conference presentations; funding for at least three years; and carefully scaffolded coursework designed to guide doctoral work at each stage of the process. Each cohort travels through core courses and milestones together, providing a peer network to complement faculty support. In addition to the PhD in Learning Sciences and Human Development, students will select a specialization track in Cognition & Learning; Human Development & Family Sciences; Instructional Design & Technology; Research, Evaluation, & Analysis; or an individually-designed track in consultation with advisors.

For additional information, please email cls@mail.wvu.edu, or refer to our department website: https://counselingandlearningsci.wvu.edu/

FACULTY

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- Malayna Berstein - Ph.D. (Northwestern University)
  Teacher Cognition, Professional Development, Reading, Qualitative Research Methods

Admissions

Admissions Guidelines: Admissions are guided by a holistic and individualized assessment of each applicant, in tandem with an evaluation of how their interests and experience align with our faculty expertise, courses, and funding opportunities. Our admissions standards are designed to help ensure that students who enter the program can successfully complete the degree and be competitive for subsequent employment opportunities.

Application Materials:

Online applications can be found here https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/). When given the opportunity to select a program, choose “Learning Sciences & Human Development.” Applications should include:

- **Letter of intent** should explain the motivation for a Ph.D. in Learning Sciences and Human Development. In this letter, applicants should briefly describe their scholarly interests, 1-3 faculty with whom they would like to work, how their interests align with those faculty members, and how this program will further their long-term professional goals. Information about LSHD faculty can be found at https://counselingandlearningsci.wvu.edu/faculty-staff
- **Transcripts** from all previous degree programs*
- **Letters of recommendation** from three referees who can speak to the applicant’s scholarly potential. When possible, at least two letters should come from university instructors who are familiar with the applicant’s scholarly work (at graduate or undergraduate levels).
- **Scholarly writing sample** (e.g., course paper)
- **Curriculum Vita**
- **Testing** (optional) GRE or MAT scores *
- **Interviews** may be requested at the discretion of the admission committee

Application Deadline:

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until March 1. Applicants who submit their files by January 1 will have a greater chance of securing funding and gaining admission.

*In line with best practices for evaluation and assessment, set cutoff scores for tests and GPA are not used to make unidimensional admissions decisions. Instead, applicant materials are reviewed as a total package and admissions decisions are based on multiple factors.

Questions:

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Doctor of Philosophy

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required of all coursework

Conceptual Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSHD 701</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of LSHD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSHD 702</td>
<td>Major Topics of Inquiry across LSHD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSHD 703</td>
<td>Empirical Design in LSHD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSHD 704</td>
<td>New Directions in LSHD</td>
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Specialization Tracks 12

Select from one of the following specializations:
- Cognition and Learning
- Human Development and Family Sciences
- Instructional Design and Technology
- Measurement, Evaluation, and Research
- Individualized Plan to be developed with advisor and program coordinator

Research Core 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDP 614</td>
<td>Statistical Methods 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDP 618</td>
<td>Mixing Research Methodologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCFD 715</td>
<td>Advanced Qualitative Research</td>
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Apprenticeships

Teaching Practicum 6

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<tr>
<td>EDP 790</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
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Research 18

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<tr>
<td>EDP 797</td>
<td>Research</td>
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Seminars 4

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<tr>
<td>EDP 796</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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Total Hours 64

Major Learning Outcomes

LEARNING SCIENCES

Objective 1: Students will demonstrate a depth and breadth of knowledge in research, theory, and scholarship in Learning Sciences as the basis for growth over a professional career.

Objective 2: Students will conduct rigorous theory development and research using multiple and mixed methodologies to understand how people develop and learn in an array of formal and informal educational settings.

Objective 3: Students will design instructional events, environments, contexts, curricula, and interventions that facilitate deep learning and healthy development in an array of formal and informal educational settings.

Objective 4: Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and contexts for human development and learning.

Objective 5: Students will model professional participation in an interdisciplinary community of scholars focused on promoting deep learning and healthy development of children and adults across a wide range of formal and informal educational settings.