

## Ph.D. in Education Program of Study

CHERYL ANNE BURRIS

FALL 2024

### COURSE CREDITS

|                         |                                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Core Courses:           | 33 (including 12 dissertation credits) |
| Specialization Courses: | 48 (included 9 credits from M.Ed.)     |
| Total:                  | 81 credits                             |

### Course Work

#### 1. General Culture: 3 credits

EDUC 800 Ways of Knowing

#### 2. Research Methods: 18 credits

|          |                                                               |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| EDRS 810 | Problems and Methods in Educational Research                  |
| EDRS 811 | Quantitative Methods in Educational Research                  |
| EDRS 812 | Qualitative Methods in Educational Research                   |
| EDRS 821 | Advanced Applications of Quantitative Methods                 |
| EDRS 822 | Advanced Applications of Qualitative Methods                  |
| EDRS 824 | Mixed Methods Research: Integrating QUAL and QUANT Approaches |

#### 3. Specialization: 36 credits

##### Primary Specialization (21): Learning Technologies Design Research

|            |                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| EDIT 801   | Nature and Process of Design                           |
| EDIT 802   | Cognition and Technology: A Multidisciplinary Approach |
| EDIT 803   | Design-Based Research                                  |
| EDIT 895   | Emerging Trends in Learning Technology                 |
| EDIT 891-1 | AI Approaches to Learning Gaps                         |
| EDIT 891-2 | AI Approaches to Course Design and Instruction         |
| EDIT 891-3 | AI Approaches to Learner-Centered Design               |

##### Secondary Specialization (9): Cognitively Accessible Instructional Design

|          |                                                                     |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AIT 790  | Advanced Special Topics in Applied Information Technology: AI in ED |
| EDEP 820 | Teaching, Learning, and Cognition                                   |
| EDEP 822 | Advanced Learning, Motivation, and Self-Regulation                  |

##### Applicable Coursework from Master's Degree (9): Learning, Design, & Technology

|         |                                                             |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| LDT 527 | Designing Constructivist Learning Environments              |
| LDT 581 | Theoretical Foundations of Learning, Design, and Technology |
| LDT 832 | E-Learning Design                                           |

#### 4. Dissertation Proposal and Research: 12 credits

|            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| EDUC 998   | Doctoral Dissertation Proposal |
| EDUC 999-1 | Doctoral Dissertation Research |

EDUC 999-2 Doctoral Dissertation Research  
EDUC 999-3 Doctoral Dissertation Research

**PROPOSED DATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT:** May 2027

**PROGRAM RATIONALE (please review the Program Guidelines for directions):**

My proposed program of study directly supports my PhD research goals by organizing coursework and specializations to develop strong expertise in instructional design, learning technology, and neuro-informed practices. This plan supports my desire to explore and develop a unified neuro-embracing educational design framework by explicitly preparing me for research, design, and leadership in cognitive accessibility and AI-supported digital learning environments.

It achieves this desire through four objectives:

1. It aligns with my research interest—the intersection of instructional design, artificial intelligence, and cognitive accessibility.
2. It emphasizes neurodivergent learners by choosing courses that support research aimed at closing gaps in engagement and cognitive accessibility.
3. It offers a thorough set of essential methods courses to ensure I can conduct rigorous research and develop effective protocols.
4. It lays the groundwork for a doctoral study that will have a practical impact.

---

Student Signature

Date

---

Chair  
Doctoral Advising Committee

Date

---

PhD Director  
PhD in Education Program

Date

---

Member  
Doctoral Advising Committee  
(secondary specialization)

Date

---

Member  
Doctoral Advising Committee

Date

---

Member  
Doctoral Advising Committee

Date

September 2016