

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Educational Foundations is a community of faculty and students engaged in the interdisciplinary study of educational theory and practice. The following are the Department's four areas of emphasis.

1. History of Education
2. Philosophy of Education
3. Social, Cultural, and Political Foundations
4. International and Comparative Education

Related areas of study include educational policy studies, educational law, multicultural education, and the politics of education.

Department Vision

The Department of Educational Foundations is committed to the professional and personal intellectual growth of educators and laypersons who wish to broaden and deepen their understanding of educational problems, questions, issues and controversies. The Department adopts a multidisciplinary approach to educational inquiry by drawing on the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. We value and affirm multiple perspectives, multiple voices and collaboration in a program that is committed to engaging and deepening the prospect of democratic education. We seek to move our students toward greater appreciation of complexity, clarity, and compassion through our curriculum.

The Department of Educational Foundations is committed to preparing educational leaders who are *knowledgeable*, *effective*, and *caring* professionals in their schools and communities.

Department Mission

The mission of the Department is to prepare educational professionals for leadership roles in schools and colleges, departments of education, and other educational settings. More specifically, the Department aims to foster an understanding of the historical, philosophical, cultural, social and political context of education, so that professionals can make informed and wise decisions about educational problems and policy issues. Graduates with the MEd degree are expected to be able to analyze alternatives in educational thought, policy and practice related to the social and ethical problems faced by schools and other educational agencies at the state, national and international levels. Teachers who receive the Department's MEd, are prepared to become leaders in their schools and districts. Graduates with the PhD are expected to exert professional leadership in the field of education and deal with those aspects and problems in society that need to be taken into account in advancing educational thought, policy development and practice, especially where these concern the social role of the school and other educational agencies.