

**Student Learning Objectives (SLO) for the Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.)  
in Adult and Continuing Education  
Rev. September 2010**

The Ph.D. program in Adult and Continuing Education is designed to provide students with advanced preparation in and understanding of the field with special emphasis upon the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes which are related to excellence in research.

COE Graduate Ph.D. Student Learning Outcomes for EDACE

- I. Educational Foundations of Adult Education
  - A. SLO1: Students will acquire a breadth and depth of knowledge concerning the historical , philosophical, sociocultural, and psychological bases for the profession and practice of adult education.
  - B. SLO2: Students will demonstrate the effective use of a variety of communication skills and modalities.
  - C. SLO3: Students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and synthesize information pertinent to adult education.
  
- II. Research
  - A. SLO4: Students will demonstrate knowledge of various research methodologies and analyze their appropriateness for specific research problems.
  - B. SLO5: Students will demonstrate proficiency in developing a research proposal and applying correct method(s) of inquiry to a specific adult education.
  - C. SLO6: Students will demonstrate the ability to present and defend research.
  
- III. Academic and Professional Integrity

SLO7: Students will articulate an ethical position that recognizes the social context in which adult education is practiced and recognition of their need to be lifelong learners and to promote continued learning in the profession.

Assessments of the SLOs:

- I. **Educational Foundations of Adult Education**

All students enrolled in the Ph.D. Program in Adult Education will be assessed in the following ways concerning foundational elements of the field:

  - A. Preliminary questions will cover the breadth and depth of knowledge concerning historical , philosophical, sociocultural, and psychological bases for profession and practice of adult education. Direct measures will include ratings from the preliminary exam questions (a rubric will be completed by each reader) and average of course grades for the core and foundation courses.
  
  - B. All students' writing abilities will be assessed using two direct measures. Direct measures include the writing of the preliminary exam questions, dissertation proposal and the final dissertation. Rubrics for the preliminary exam questions will be completed by the reader. Rubrics for the dissertation proposal will be completed by each reader. Rubrics for the final dissertation will be completed by a consensus of the

committee at the dissertation defense. All students oral communication skills will be assessed using two direct measures, which include the dissertation proposal defense and the dissertation defense. Rubrics will be completed by each member of the committee at the dissertation proposal. Rubrics for the dissertation will be completed by a consensus of the committee at the dissertation defense.

- C. All students will be assessed as to their ability to critically evaluate and synthesize information pertinent to adult education through direct measures, which include the preliminary exams (rubrics will be completed by each reader) and rubrics for the dissertation will be completed by a consensus of the committee at the dissertation defense.

## II. **Research**

- A. All students enrolled in the Ph.D. Program in Adult Education will be assessed as to their knowledge of various research methodologies and analyze their appropriateness for specific research problems. Direct measures will include ratings from the preliminary exam question focused on research (a rubric will be completed by the reader) and candidacy rubric, which requires a consensus rating for each item, will be completed by the doctoral committee prior to signing the ballot's approval for candidacy section.
- B. All students will be assessed as to their proficiency in developing a research proposal and applying correct method(s) of inquiry to a specific adult education practice at the proposal meeting. Direct measures will include a rubric completed by each committee member and rubric completed by the advisor at the time of the dissertation proposal.
- C. All students will demonstrate the ability to present and defend research work in oral, written, and graphic forms, which will be assessed at the dissertation defense. The direct measure will be the dissertation defense, which will require the committee to submit a rubric with a consensus rating for each item, prior to signing the ballot.

## III. **Academic and professional integrity**

All students in the Ph.D. Program in Adult Education will be assessed as to their ethical position that recognizes the social context in which adult education is practiced and recognition of their need to be lifelong learners and to promote continued learning in the profession at the dissertation defense. The direct measure will be the dissertation defense, which will require the committee to submit a rubric with a consensus rating for each item.

All SLOs are indirectly measured by student self-assessment. This is a survey that the students will complete prior to the dissertation defense.