EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Ph.D. Admission FAQ

1) What tests do I need to take?
The GRE is required in order to apply to the Ph.D program in Education. You can find more information, including testing dates, at **www.ets.org/gre**

We only accept GRE scores sent to us by the Education Testing Services (ETS) online delivery system. ETS will supply scores for tests taken in the previous 5 years. The code for UCSC is 4860 (no dept. code is necessary).

2) How do I prepare for these exams?
You should also go online to the GRE website for additional preparation resources. There are also many books that can be found on preparation for the GRE.

3) Is there money for testing costs?
The GRE may have a waiver program. You will need to contact them in order to find out more information about potential waivers.

4) Are there minimum GRE scores for admission? And, how long are my GRE scores valid?
GRE scores are considered along with all the other areas of the application. There is no GRE “cut score”.
Current GRE Board policy states that your scores are retained for the 5 testing years following the testing year in which you tested. Please contact Educational Testing Service for additional information.

5) How important are the GRE scores in selecting applicants to extend an offer of admission?
Our admissions committee looks at the entire application, the GRE scores being only one component. If you feel that your scores do not represent your academic potential, you should speak to your concerns in your Personal Statement.

6) If I’m not able to take my GRE scores until late November, and my scores come in late, will they be included in my file?
The short answer is yes.
The longer answer is that the Graduate Division Admissions office first assembles and forwards to our department all materials that come in on time. Then the Admissions office goes back and matches up late materials, and forwards them to the correct department. This may take a few weeks, and the Education Admissions Committee will begin looking at applications after the December 1st deadline; therefore, it’s recommended to have all materials submitted on time.

7) What about the TOEFL exam?
Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not received a college degree from an institution in an English-speaking country must take the TOEFL exam. The minimum passing score for the TOEFL exam must be 570 on the paper-based, 230 on the computer-based or 89 on the internet-based test. If you have received a degree from an American institution and have lived in the United States for a number of years, you may be able to request a TOEFL exemption through the department. **www.ets.org/toefl**

8) How much does the program cost? Is there financial support?
Tuition information can be found on the Registrar website **reg.ucsc.ed** – click on Registration Fees in the lower left column. Please keep in mind that the Fees change yearly.

It is the student’s responsibility to secure funding for graduate studies. Over the course of students’ enrollment in the graduate program, students’ typically fund their education with some combination of the following: TAships, GSRships, UCSC graduate fellowships, scholarships or fellowships from outside sources, loans, personal savings, family income, and support from other individuals (e.g. extended family members). When possible, first year students are supported with UCSC graduate fellowships, which typically cover part of a student’s expenses for the first year only. Beginning in the
student’s first year, he or she is strongly encouraged to apply for TAships in college core courses and in other departments on campus. Students are also encouraged to seek and apply for outside funding from government agencies, private foundations, and industry, and to plan alternative financing should none of these opportunities become available.

Financial aide information is available at: financialaid.ucsc.edu/types-eligibility/loans/grad-plus.html. You can also contact Diana Smith at dsmith@ucsc.edu for more information.

9) What is the timeline for applying to the Ph.D program?
Applications are accepted between October 1 and December 1 each year... The online application is located on the Graduate Division’s website https://apply.embark.com/Grad/UCSantaCruz/82/. We do not have paper applications. No late applications will be accepted.

10) HAS UCSC received all of my application materials?
Applicants will receive two emails after submitting the completed application (1) contains a link to MyUCSC portal, and the username (2) contains login information. Applicants can check the status of their application materials on-line via the portal.

11) What are the opportunities for coursework in other graduate programs on campus, and can I get an additional concentration in a second area?
There are many opportunities to take elective courses in other departments and this is highly encouraged to augment your specific research goals.

Some programs on campus also offer a "Designated Emphasis" in their fields. You can find out more from each department’s websites or by contacting their graduate advisor.

12) How long does it take to complete the Ph.D program?
Students vary in how long they take to complete the program, but the expectation is that students will finish in approximately six years.

13) Does the program admit students for an M.A. in Education?
While our Ph.D. students have the option to earn an M.A. during the course of their doctoral studies, we only admit students who intend to earn a Ph.D.

We do offer a Master of Arts/Credential Program, for those students wishing to pursue a career in K-12 teaching: http://education.ucsc.edu/academics/mac-info/index.html. The MA/Credential Program’s Information Night will be held on October 27th, 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information you can visit: http://education.ucsc.edu/academics/mac-info/index.html

14) How do I apply to your Ph.D. program?
All applications to graduate programs are submitted online. For instructions on how to apply, visit the Division of Graduate Studies’ website: http://graddiv.ucsc.edu. This website is also a valuable source of general information about graduate studies at UC Santa Cruz. The deadline for applications for 2012-2013 is on December 1, 2011.

15) What should my Personal Statement convey?
This should be a concise, well-written essay about your background and your reasons for pursuing graduate study in the field you have chosen. Admissions committees place particular importance on the statement of purpose. It exhibits your ability to present ideas in clear, coherent language. Your statement of purpose should indicate how knowledgeable you are in the desired field of study, what area of research you intend to pursue, and how your undergraduate studies and other experiences (work, community involvement, and so forth) serve as a foundation for graduate study. In addition, address how and why you intend to build on this foundation of knowledge and apply your training to social or theoretical problems. Please mention in your personal statement why you want to pursue graduate work in the selected concentration(s): Social & Cultural Contexts of Education; Learning & Teaching; Teachers & Teacher Development; Language, Literacy, & Culture; Mathematics & Science Education; and why you would like to do it at UCSC.
• You should address what your goals are in seeking a PhD and what area(s) of research you want to study. Include any possible research questions you want to explore.
• The Admissions Committee will be looking for a match between the applicant’s proposed area of research and the expertise of the Education Department’s faculty.
• Describe how you see your work in terms of a larger social change or equity in education.
• You should address any problems or inconsistencies in your academic record, test scores, etc.
• Your Personal Statement is the “face” of your application: should be substantive, well written, error-free.

16) How often are required courses offered?
Required courses are generally offered every one or two years.

17) Is there flexibility in course selection?
Faculty advisors work with students annually to determine course selection. Our faculty work very hard to plan the department’s courses to be offered; they take into consideration students’ programmatic requirements and students’ interests when planning each year’s courses.

18) Are there restrictions on courses?
Our doctoral courses are available to doctoral students only; our doctoral classes are set at 15 or 20 maximum capacity, but they are often much smaller. Students from other departments are encouraged, and often do enroll in our courses.

19) Are there opportunities to work in other departments?
Yes, we have students who hold TAships and GSRships in other departments

20) What kind of writing sample would you like? Is it ok to include something that is not on an education topic? Is it ok to use a writing sample that is not an education topic?
The writing sample is one source (along with the Personal Statement and letters of recommendation) that the admissions committees use to evaluate students’ writing abilities. Samples can be term papers, field reports, research proposals, or an essay (in addition to the Personal Statement) written especially for the application. Education or closely-related topics are preferred, but writing on other topics that demonstrate students’ ability to engage in scholarly writing are also acceptable.

21) How does my undergraduate GPA factor into the admission process?
The undergraduate GPA is one important indicator of students’ academic record and potential; it is considered along with all the other elements of the application. If you do not feel your GPA represents your academic potential, you should address this in the Personal Statement.

22) What is the most important portion of the application when being considered for admission?
All aspects of the application are important, and all considered carefully by the admissions committees.

23) Whom should I ask to write letters of recommendation for me?
At least two of the three letters should be from faculty members or other instructors who have taught you in higher educational settings. These letters should discuss your potential to successfully complete a doctoral degree program that requires significant reading and writing, analytical thinking, and scholarly research. All the letters should speak to your experiences and interests in the fields or topics you intend to explore in our program, and your potential for successfully pursuing the goals you have set forth.