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Welcome to Social Foundations!

Social Foundations of Education is an interdisciplinary field concerned with diverse factors that profoundly influence education. We explore how historical, philosophical, socio-cultural, political, economic, and religious elements shape educational processes and experiences and how education, in turn, influences society. As a field, we are ultimately striving for a more equitable, just, peaceful, and democratic society and world. Our graduates are higher education and K-12 educators, community activists, educational leaders and policy analysts. Access the Social Foundations website here.

The Graduate College website and OSU Catalog should also be consulted for general requirements of the Graduate College, specific course descriptions, and other useful information (e.g., publications on the Appeals Procedure, Graduate Assistant Handbook). In Stillwater, the Graduate College office is located in 202B Whitehurst, 405/744-6368. In Tulsa, the Graduate Student Services Center is located in North Hall 130, 918/594-8455.

Careful study of this handbook, the University Catalog, and the Graduate College web pages will aid you with long-term planning of your program of study, help you to avoid misunderstanding of requirements and expectations, and increase the likelihood that you will have a highly positive experience as a graduate student in the Social Foundations of Education Program.

Note: Graduate students are expected to be aware of and satisfy all regulations governing their work and study at the university. The STUDENT is responsible for keeping up to date with all program, college, and university requirements and deadlines. Not doing so can result in substantial financial consequences and delays to a student’s graduation timeline.
The degree in which you are enrolled is a Ph. D. in Education, with the Social Foundations of Education option (SCFD). The Social Foundations of Education academic program is in the School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation or SEFLA. The School Head is Dr. Susan Stansberry.

https://education.okstate.edu/scfd
Administration and Office Information

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Social Foundations Faculty

Click here for the link on the OSU website.

Guoping Zhao, Ph.D.

Professor and
Program Coordinator
211 Willard Hall
405-744-9897
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Dr. Zhao is an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of philosophy of education, comparative philosophy, and Chinese education. Her work covers a broad range of topics including the theories of the subject, ethics, spirituality, democracy and the politics of education, and philosophical dialogue between Western modern and postmodern philosophy and Chinese philosophy. She has also critically analyzed Chinese education to re-envision its promise and possibilities. In multiple areas, Dr. Zhao’s substantive and well-regarded work is moving the discipline in new directions.

Lucy E. Bailey, Ph. D.

Associate Professor
215 Willard Hall
405-744-9194
lucy.bailey@okstate.edu

Dr. Bailey’s expertise includes the theoretical foundations of inquiry and a range of (non) positivist qualitative research approaches, particularly those that work “with rather than on people” (Lather, 1997). She teaches courses in feminist, narrative, auto/biography, historical, critical and poststructuralist theories and methodologies. Her scholarship draws from theoretical approaches in gender, race, and sexuality studies, cultural studies and anthropology to examine both current and historical diversity issues. She is the Director of Gender and Women’s Studies at OSU and a strong voice in the OSU’s effort to retain more women and people of color in the STEM fields.
Benjamin Bindewald, Ph. D.

Assistant Professor
Willard 213 Hall
405-744-3461

ben.bindewald@okstate.edu

Dr. Bindewald’s primary line of research addresses the role of religion in public education within the context of pluralist, democratic societies. He takes an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship that employs qualitative research methods and philosophical and historical inquiry to analyze educational policy and practice. His teaching interests include qualitative research methods, theoretical foundations of inquiry, religion and public education, teacher preparation, and philosophy and history of education. A former secondary social studies teacher, he is deeply committed to the project of public education and, particularly, to equality of educational opportunity and fair treatment of students and teachers.

Denise Blum, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
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Dr. Blum's research focuses on the role of markets, governments and political economy in structuring education, socializing cultural identity(ies) and affecting equity issues in societies. She conducts ethnographic fieldwork in Mexico and Cuba and with immigrant groups in the United States. She specializes in critical ethnography and emancipatory methodological approaches. As a former school teacher in the US and abroad, her teaching interests include transformative pedagogies, service-learning, popular culture, urban education and comparative education. She is the faculty advisor for OSU Cineculture, film screenings with discussion to raise awareness, and is affiliate faculty with the School of International Studies.
Program Overview

SCFD Mission

SCFD at OSU is recognized for its rigorous program, its broad, interdisciplinary nature of study, and its excellence in teaching and research. We are committed to educate theoretically sound and methodological well-informed educational scholars, leaders, and advocates. With our course design and degree requirements, the SCFD Ph.D. program option intends to create a research culture and an environment of collaboration. Our respected team of scholars has research expertise in a broad range of areas and methodologies that can support individual students’ development as scholars and advocates.

SCFD Coursework and Degree Requirements

All students admitted into the Ph.D. degree option in Social Foundations are expected to meet all university requirements and the requirements for admission to the Ph.D. in Education. Students with little or no background in education may be required to take additional leveling coursework. The Social Foundations admission committee determines such prerequisite considerations. Specific graduate courses that may be required as leveling courses include:

- SCFD 5223 Role of Teachers in American Schools
- SCFD 5873 Culture, Society, and Education
- SCFD 5990 Problems and Issues in Social Foundations

Students will be expected to use technology resources appropriately in course projects, assignments, and research.

Ph.D. in Education, Social Foundations of Education Option

(69 credit hours minimum, with typically no more than 2-5000 level courses (in addition to SCFD 5713, SCFD 5883, if these courses are taken as part of Ph.D. coursework).

Note: Leveling courses are not included in the 69 hours.

Common Program Core: 9 credit hours (typically taken within the first 3 semesters)

- SCFD 6983 Diversity & Equity Issues in Education
- SCFD 6113 Theoretical Foundations of Inquiry
- CIED 6503 Doctoral Seminar
**Research Courses**: 12 credit hours, at least one qualitative and one quantitative course at 6000 level. (Note: all 6000 level REMS quantitative courses require prerequisites of REMS 5013 & 5953, which will not count towards the 69 total hours). Only one 5000- level course (excluding REMS 5013 and 5953) may count toward the required coursework in this category. Pending committee approval, appropriate courses include the following:

- CIED 6073 Advanced Pedagogical Research
- CIED 6163 Advanced Research Strategies in Curriculum
- CIED 6523 Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research
- HESA 6910 Practicum in Dissertation Proposal Writing (this course is taken last term of coursework or during Dissertation hours)

- HIST 5023 Historical Methods
- REMS 6373 Program Evaluation I
- REMS 6383 Program Evaluation II

**Quantitative Approaches**
- REMS 5013 Research Design and Methodology
- REMS 5953: Statistical Methods in Education
- REMS 6003 Analysis of Variance (requires REMS 5013 & 5953 as pre-req)
- REMS 6013 Multiple Regression Analysis (requires REMS 6003 as pre-req)
- REMS 6663 Applied Multivariate Research (requires REMS 6013 as pre-req)
- STAT 5033 Nonparametric Methods
- STAT 5043 Sample Survey Designs

**Qualitative Methodologies**
- GEOG 5423 Geographic Renderings in Qualitative Methods
- SCFD 5913 Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- SCFD 6123 Qualitative Research I (Research Design and Data Collection)
- SCFD 6133 Qualitative Interviewing
- SCFD 6190: Selected Methods in Qualitative Research (Narrative Inquiry, Auto/Ethnography, Case Study Research, Document Analysis, Phenomenology, Life Story Research...)
- SCFD 6193: Qualitative Research II (Data Analysis)
- SOC 6853: Symbolic Interactionism

**Social Foundations Core**: 24 credit hours, at least one 6000 level course (except for SCFD 5713, 5883) from each of the four areas of Social Foundations: Philosophy of Education, History of Education, Anthropology of Education, and Sociology of Education. *Must take if no equivalent course has been taken in Master’s program.
- SCFD 5713 Educational Philosophy (P)*
- SCFD 5883 Educational Sociology (S)*
- SCFD 6823 History of Education (H)*
- SCFD 6853 Anthropology of Education (A)*
- SCFD 5873 Culture, Society, and Education
SCFD 5923 Popular Culture in Education
SCFD 5990 Problems and Issues in Social Foundations (topics vary; eg. Religion and Education)
SCFD 5998 Urban Education
SCFD 6023 Comparative Education
SCFD 6443 Ethics and Moral Education (P)
SCFD 6850 Directed Readings (topics vary)
SCFD 6883 Transforming Pedagogies
SCFD 6630 Topics in Philosophy of Education (P)
SCFD 6973 Gender, Theory and Education
SCFD 6990 Seminar in Social Foundations (topics vary; e.g. Democratic Education; History of Education of Women)

Cognate Area: 9 credit hours
Students take 9 credit hours in a concentration or cognate area based on their research interest and in consultation with their advisor and dissertation committee. These areas are available in the College of Education, Health and Aviation and in the College of Arts and Sciences at OSU. They can be, but are not limited to, the following areas:
History
Philosophy
Sociology
International Studies
Comparative Education Gender and Women Studies
Higher Education
Educational Administration
Educational Technology
Pedagogy
STEM Education
College Teaching
Qualitative Inquiry
Research, Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics
Special Education
Curriculum Studies
Media and Culture

Independent Research: 15 credit hours
SCFD 6000 Dissertation

Research and Scholarship Preparation
In addition to the requirements listed above for degree completion, students must have (a) presented at a national or international conference and (b) submitted an article to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.
Faculty will support and mentor candidates through these processes.
For more information, visit the program web site at https://education.okstate.edu/scfd
The Admission Process

Where to Begin?

Complete the online application found on the OSU Graduate College website. You will be asked to upload official transcripts, a current resume, and a goals statement with your application and to identify individuals to provide a letter of recommendation. You will also be required to pay the application fee before your materials will be released for review. Indicate a preference for a Ph.D. in Education, Social Foundations of Education option.

Application Procedures

Those wishing to apply for the Social Foundations of Education degree option should submit all application materials through the online application portal https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/apply. Please check that all materials are complete and accurate (the Graduate College is unable to upload any supplemental materials for you). Letters of recommendation must be uploaded directly by the individual providing the recommendation. They will receive instructions how to do so through email, so please make sure all email addresses are accurate.

A document for printing is available at Social Foundations of Education Application and Admission Document.

Documents Required for Admission Review

- Upload all official transcripts from all institutions of higher education. (Note: A minimum grade point average in graduate coursework of 3.50 on a 4.00 scale is required.) If you are having difficulty submitting any of the following items (#3-7) to the online application process, please email DIRECTLY to the College of Education Graduate Records Office, coe.grad.studies@okstate.edu, 325V Willard Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078, (405) 744-9483.
- GRE or MAT test scores completed within the past 5 years (For the GRE, a score of 151 verbal and 150 quantitative is expected and 4.5 on the analytical scale. For the MAT, a raw score of 400 is expected.)
- Submit three professional recommendations from the major advisor and faculty for any graduate work completed. These references should include statements relating to a) the applicant’s success in professional settings or commitment to professionals allied with the disciplines in the College of Education, b) the applicant’s prior academic record as a reflection of ability to succeed in a doctoral program, and c) the applicant’s potential for success in research, writing, and coursework at the doctoral level.
• Additional letters may be submitted from faculty members familiar with the applicant’s academic career or from professionals capable of addressing the applicant’s ability to successfully complete a doctoral program.
• Submit a two-page statement clearly articulating how the Social Foundations Ph.D. program will contribute to your future goals. The statement should include an explanation of your goals and expectations for doctoral study and how prior academic and professional experiences have prepared you for your chosen area of study.
• Submit an academic or scholarly paper you have written recently.
• Current and complete resume/vita
• TOEFL or IELTS (if required to establish English proficiency)

Ph.D. Program Admission Deadlines

Application Deadlines: Rolling admission until July 1 for Fall admission. Rolling admission until December 1 for Spring admission. Priority deadlines for scholarship applications: January 15 for Fall admission. September 15 for Spring admission. For international applicants, see the Graduate College requirement at: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/application-process-0
NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Admission Decisions

Within four weeks of the application deadline, candidates will be notified via a letter about admission status. Admission decisions are based on appropriate academic, scholarly and research alliances among the student, the faculty and the focus of the Ph.D. program in Education. Available resources and current enrollment within the program play a significant role in the admission decision. The graduate faculty in the program of Social Foundations will determine the number of students that may be admitted at any given time. In order to ensure appropriate mentoring and guidance to Ph.D. students, each faculty member should have no more than five or six active Ph.D. advisees at any one time.

Request for additional information. If the admissions committee determines that additional information is needed before a final decision is rendered regarding admission status, the committee may request a phone, skype, or on-campus interview with members of the admissions committee. If an interview is required, you will be contacted and arrangements will be made.

Standards for provisional admission. Provisional admission may be recommended for an applicant who shows excellent promise but does not meet all of the standards listed above. In order to be granted unqualified admission, applicants admitted on a provisional basis must, within one calendar year, earn a minimum GPA of 3.5 in nine hours of doctoral coursework designated by the admissions committee.

Leveling courses. For students with limited or no academic background in education, 1 to 2 leveling coursework may be required. Those course hours do not count towards the 69 coursework hours required for the degree. The admission committee determines such prerequisite considerations. Specific graduate courses that may be required as leveling course include:
SCFD 5223: Role of Teachers in American Schools  
SCFD 5873 Culture, Society, and Education  
SCFD 5990 Problems and Issues in Social Foundations

**Funding**

**OSU Financial Aid & Scholarships**

For information and application help, contact the OSU Scholarships & Financial Aid Office, 119 Student Union, 405/744-6604. For information about COE Scholarships, call 405/744-3355 or visit http://education.okstate.edu/students/scholarships.

**College of Education, Health, & Aviation**

- Scholarships: [https://education.okstate.edu/scholarships](https://education.okstate.edu/scholarships)

- Technology provides equipment checkout, a fully equipped computer lab, presentation poster printing and other services: [https://education.okstate.edu/tech](https://education.okstate.edu/tech)

**School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, & Aviation (SEFLA) Graduate Student Travel Grant**

The SEFLA Grant is offered as a means of reimbursement for SEFLA graduate students with costs associated with presentation of research at a state, regional, national, or international conference. Applicants may receive one grant award per academic year, up to the amount of $500 dollars. Review of applications is by a faculty committee representing all SEFLA programs. Application requires confirmation or acknowledgment of conference research presentation, copy of the conference registration document to include registration cost, lodging, and travel expenses. (Receipts are not needed for the purpose of this application.) Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the student. Grants will be awarded based on demonstration of need and available funding.

Application form: [https://education.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/ses/ses_gs_travel_grant.pdf](https://education.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/ses/ses_gs_travel_grant.pdf)

Paid receipts are required when reimbursement requests are submitted after travel has been completed. Reimbursement requests are submitted to the SEFLA administrative offices in 204 Willard Hall.
Post Admission & Milestones

Upon admission to the program, student-scholars are assigned a temporary advisor. It is not uncommon for student-scholars to change their advisor once they have become familiar with the research interests of SCFD faculty and their own research emphasis. The advisor will assist with submitting a plan of study, successful completion of qualifying exams and successful submission of proposal and defense of dissertation research.

A. First Semester Items to complete

1. Contact your temporary advisor and arrange for a meeting. The SCFD faculty information can be found on page 4. Access to SCFD faculty is available at the following link:
   https://education.okstate.edu/scfd/faculty
2. Familiarize yourself with the Central Authentication Service Login or also known as your O-Key Account:
   Activate your O-key and O-key Sign in Service
3. Discuss the courses you will take with your advisor. Coursework can be found on page 7.
4. Complete your RCR training in your first semester. Please visit the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) website and select “RCR course” to complete the online module:
   https://compliance.okstate.edu/rcr/training
   Click here for more information: RCR Instructions
5. Institutional Review Board (IRB). If your class project, dissertation topic, or other research involves human subjects, or if you are interested in presenting or publishing academic work that involves human subjects, you are required to submit an application for approval of the research to the OSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) homepage. For more information: https://irb.okstate.edu/

B. Prior to completing your third semester (excluding summer sessions)

1. The Graduate College of Oklahoma State University requires all doctoral students to file a plan of study prior to completing their third semester. By then, you should meet regularly with your temporary advisor, who will aid you in choosing and scheduling
courses, and answer your questions. During this time, you will discuss your specific research focus and interests. Become familiar with all of the faculty members of SCFD to thoughtfully choose your advisor and build your committee. 
https://education.okstate.edu/scfd/faculty

2. Review the list of core and specialization courses, cognate options, and research hours required for graduation. Prepare the plan of study with your temporary/new advisor
Click here for degree requirements for Social Foundations of Education.

3. Choose Committee Members: The Graduate College requires you to have at least four committee members comprised of OSU tenure-track graduate faculty. One of those members must be an “outside” member, meaning a faculty member from outside your school (the School of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Aviation) or college.

4. Social Foundations requires at least two committee members from the social foundations faculty. The 4th faculty member can be from social foundations, specialization, or another area of study appropriate for supporting your degree progress. Each student will identify and invite faculty to serve on your committee. For more information about the role of committee members, please go to:
https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/graduate-advisory-committee-membership

5. Review and download the Doctoral Degree Plan of Study form:
https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/planofstudy/

6. Schedule a Plan of Study meeting with all of your faculty committee members to discuss and finalize your Plan of Study. It will take time to negotiate the time and date of your meeting. The student must be flexible and plan accordingly.

7. File the completed, committee approved Plan of Study electronically through the graduate college system. Each committee member will receive the Plan of Study electronically, review and sign it electronically.

8. Change of Committee Members: It is not uncommon for Ph.D. students to change their committee members during the program due to shifts in dissertation foci, research emphasis, faculty leave, and other matters. We are all here to support your work whether we have a role on your committee. If you need to change your committee members during your program, discuss the potential changes with your advisor. You will need to contact your new committee members to ask if they are available to serve, contact each of the current committee members to alert them of the change, complete a Committee Change form, and have each committee member (both previous and new) initial the form. Like the POS form, this form can be submitted and initialed electronically. Access the electronic Committee Change Request here:
https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/FormsPage
C. Annual Progress Reports and Appeal

The Graduate College Policy requires each program to assess a learner’s progress towards degree completion at least once annually. Annual review of students and candidates is an important part of the Social Foundations of Education program. The annual review serves to provide feedback regarding your progress in the program as well as steps that can be taken to maintain that progress and/or meet personal and career goals. In order to provide feedback regarding your progress, students need to follow a two-step process.

Step One: complete a survey with a series of questions about your academic progress and accomplishments during Spring semester each year.

Step Two: send materials to your advisor, temporary advisor (for Ph.D. students who have not yet filed a Plan of Study). The survey link and details regarding specific materials will be sent during Spring Semester.

If it is determined that the student is not making adequate progress, then a plan to address and correct any inadequacies will be prepared in a written document provided to the student and the Dean of the Graduate College no later than June 30 of each year. Failure to correct these inadequacies may result in termination from the graduate program and/or Graduate College.

Appeal Process: In the event that inadequate progress toward degree completion remains unresolved after the deadline for the remediation plan has passed, the program will proceed with dismissal. You will be notified in writing and given 14 calendar days to request an appeal with the Coordinator of the Social Foundations of Education program. S/he will notify you of a decision for this request within 14 calendar days. If the decision is made to uphold the move to dismiss, you will be given an additional 14 days to request and appeal with the Head of the School of Educational Foundations, Leadership, and Aviation. The School Head will notify you of a decision for this request within 14 calendar days. Once the appeal process has been exhausted at the school-level, you may appeal to the Dean of the Graduate College.

In addition to program dismissal, this policy also applies to situations such as program requirements, plans of study, and procedural issues pertaining to qualifying exam and dissertation defenses. Click here to see the Graduate School’s Appeals Policy for more general guidelines regarding crafting an appeal as well as specific information about time frames, documentation, etc.

D. Leave of Absence Provisions

The Graduate College requires that graduate students maintain continuous enrollment throughout the degree program. The specific requirements for continuous enrollment and progress to degree can be found on the Graduate College website at http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/enrollment.
If you are unable to maintain continuous enrollment, you should consider requesting a Leave of Absence. The Graduate College policies on Leave of Absence can be found at [http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/leave-of-absence-policy](http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/leave-of-absence-policy). Approval of a student Leave of Absence from the SCFD is contingent upon good academic standing as defined by the Graduate College. In order to be reinstated at the end of the Leave of Absence, you must meet the admissions criteria in place at the time of your initial admission to the program. In addition, you must meet the conditions set forth by your graduate advisory committee (or academic advisor in the case that the committee has not yet been formed) as indicated in the letter from the committee/advisor that must be attached to the Leave of Absence Request Form. Students whose military orders call for deployment are automatically approved for a leave of absence for the duration of the deployment. Students with military orders that prevent them from continuous enrollment do not need Leave of Absence approval but do need to notify their academic advisor/advisory committee members. Their Leave of Absence will not be counted toward the time-to-degree limits.

**E. Qualifying Examination**

**Doctoral Qualifying Examination:** The primary purpose of the Qualifying examination is to provide the student-scholar with the opportunity to demonstrate the development and attainment of specific competencies which include core Social Foundations knowledge in order to proceed to the dissertation phase of his/her program. The Qualifying Examination will prepare the student-scholar for the job market while offering them a way to document their own development and achievements accomplished during the doctoral learning process. The exam questions are designed to measure the student’s proficiency in the field of specialization, the breadth and depth of professional education background, and knowledge of cognate subjects. Typically, the content of the qualifying exam is based on three primary areas: program core areas, area of specialization and research, and cognate.

**Registration for the Exam:** The exam is usually held on two dates per year: the second-to-last week of September and the second week of March. Dates fluctuate so you must check with the College of Education, Health & Aviation Graduate Studies Office to schedule.

1. You must register for the exam before taking it. Please pay attention to the registration deadline for the exam. Your advisor/committee chair will assist you in choosing an appropriate timeline for your exams. Once you decide to take the exam, please contact your committee chair and Rachel Potts, the coordinator for graduate student services. As the Coordinator of Graduate Student Services, Rachel Potts is the principal person of contact regarding course actions, curricular actions, plans of study, degree requirements, graduation clearance requirements and other academic services.

**Kristen Kulling, Coordinator, Graduate Student Services**  
Office: 102A Willard Hall  
Phone: (405) 744-9483 Fax: (405) 744-6399  
Eha.grad.stuies@okstate.edu
2. **Description of Qualifying Exams:** The format required by the Ph. D in education is a split sit-in and take-home exam. The first part of the exam is taken in a 1 day sit-in written format in a Willard Hall classroom on a computer. The exam consists of a series of questions related to the degree core. The second part of the exam is in a written take-home format, in which students receive the take home questions related to their specialization and research at the end of the day after their sit-down exam is complete. Based on the committee and student needs, students will have approximately 10 days to 2 weeks to complete the take-home portion of their exam. This format and timeline may be adjusted based on student’s request and committee decision.

3. **Qualifying Exam/Oral Defense:** Social Foundations students also defend their written qualifying exams orally. The oral defense is scheduled approximately one month after students complete their exams. Each committee member will evaluate the written portion of your exams (both in-session and take home) in a period of approximately two weeks after you submit them. After the evaluation of your exams are complete, your chair/advisor will instruct you to schedule a date and room for your oral defense with the administrative assistant from Willard Scheduling: **Casey Powell**, 405-744-8037, willard.scheduling@okstate.edu.

After consulting with your advisor about her/his schedule, you will use that information to contact your committee members to schedule a common meeting time. Students commonly use doodle polls to initiate this work: [http://doodle.com/](http://doodle.com/)

**F. Dissertation**

As partial fulfillment of your Ph.D. degree, you are required to complete a dissertation. According to the OSU Catalog, the dissertation has three main functions: (1) training in research, (2) promoting professional growth, and (3) contributing to the professional knowledge in education. Ultimately, the purpose of the dissertation is to provide an opportunity for you to integrate and apply a wide range of research skills in a special area of interest directly related to the social foundations of education. Although initial groundwork for the dissertation can occur early in your program, the formal work usually occurs during your third year.

**Dissertation Course:** Several programs in the college offer dissertation proposal development courses (e.g. EDLE 6910), at least once per year. This 3-credit hour seminar course allows students to work collaboratively on their proposals with the guidance of a faculty member. Social foundations students who have taken this course have found it very helpful.

**Dissertation Proposal and Defense**

The dissertation proposal should be developed in consultation with your advisory committee chairperson and/or dissertation advisor. The proposal must consist of an introduction, review of the literature, methodology, references and appendices. The introduction and method sections of
the dissertation proposal should be written to be consistent with manuscript submission requirements for peer-reviewed journals.

The dissertation proposal must be approved by your advisory committee and prepared under the direction of the committee members and the close supervision of the dissertation advisor. You must demonstrate initiative, creative intelligence, and the ability to plan and carry out scholarly research in the field of Social Foundations of Education.

**Doctoral Candidacy**

Once you have successfully defended your dissertation proposal, you become a doctoral candidate. Doctoral candidacy forms are available in the Graduate Studies Office in the College of Education in room 102A Willard Hall or here. This form should be completed by all members of your advisory committee at the end of the dissertation proposal meeting, assuming that you have already successfully passed your qualifying exams. You should be familiar with Graduate College requirements regarding deadlines for submitting this form.

Students must receive formal admission to doctoral candidacy 6 months prior to graduation (see Graduate College Academic Calendar for exact dates). Click here for the [Graduate College Academic Calendar](#); you are responsible for knowing the deadlines for submission of each document for graduation.

**Application for Approval of Research**

After your advisory committee has approved your proposal, you should submit an application for approval of research to the OSU Internal Review Board (IRB) if the research involves human subjects. You are required to successfully complete or update online IRB research training [CITI Human Subjects Protection Training Program](#) before you can submit the IRB application. After the IRB approves the proposal, you may begin collecting and analyzing the data in order to complete the results and discussion section of the dissertation. When the committee chairperson or dissertation advisor believes the dissertation is ready for final consideration by the advisory committee, a final oral defense of the dissertation is scheduled and conducted. Details and deadlines are located here: [Graduate College Dissertation Guidelines](#).

**Conducting Dissertation Research and Writing**

Stay in regular contact with your chair/advisor during the research and writing process regarding your progress and questions. Remember to sign up for dissertation hours each term, including any summer you are working on your dissertation. Some advisors have specific requirements and timelines for revisions and feedback.

Like the proposal process, it takes time collect data, analyze and write, and revise your dissertation draft in line with your committee members’ feedback. We recommend forming writing groups and working with program colleagues to stay connected and make progress on your research.
There are a variety of resources to use to support your progress, including dissertation writing groups available online and structured workshops through the graduate program. You’ll be well on the way to finishing a product of which you will be proud. We recommend that you follow the dissertation template from the Graduate College, which offers a clear and organized format for completing your dissertation. To access this document, select “Dissertation Template” at this link:

https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/thesis-and-dissertation-templates

G. Dissertation Defense

The final step is the oral defense of the dissertation. You will provide a copy of the dissertation to your advisor and each committee member at least two weeks in advance to your defense meeting. The dissertation defense is open to the public. Visitors, other than committee members, are not permitted to vote and will be excused at the discretion of the Committee Chair. The Chair is the person responsible for the conduct of this final examination. The oral defense should be announced at least two weeks in advance with a posting on the SEFLA and the College of Education, Health and Aviation bulletin boards.

The committee will notify the Graduate College immediately of the results of the final defense on the appropriate form.


After you have successfully completed the final defense, you will make all changes required by the committee and by the Graduate College and electronically submit the dissertation in the final form to the Graduate College.

Note about summer: Defenses should be scheduled in Spring and Fall terms. Only in rare exceptions do faculty hold summer dissertation defenses because faculty are attending to other job responsibilities. In the event that a summer defense is considered, it is only possible if all committee members agree. The chair will not go forward without that agreement, and a member of the Advisory Committee may not be replaced for non-agreement to a summer defense.

File for Your Diploma: Yes, you will have completed your journey through the Social Foundations program. Apply to Graduate!
In addition to the requirements listed above for degree completion, students must have (a) presented at least two professional conferences (at least one national/international) and (b) submitted an article to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. Faculty will support and mentor candidates through these processes. We strongly recommend our students to begin these processes as early in program progression as possible. You can gain ideas for your conference presentation from your classes. Here are some conferences that our faculty members and students usually attend:

**National and international conferences:**

American Educational Research Association (AERA):

[http://www.aera.net/](http://www.aera.net/)

American Educational Studies Association (AESA)


American Anthropological Association (AAA)


Philosophy of Education Society (PES)


Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain (PESGB)


Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia (PESA)

[https://pesa.org.au/](https://pesa.org.au/)

History of Education Society (HES)

[https://www.historyofeducation.org/](https://www.historyofeducation.org/)
International Network of Philosophy of Education (INPE)

http://www.internationalnetworkofphilosophersofeducation.org/

International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE)

http://www.ische.org/

International Society of Educational Biography (ISEB)

http://isebio.com/

Comparative & International Education Society (CIES)

http://www.cies.us/home.html

National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

http://www.nwsa.org/

Local and regional conferences:

- Oklahoma Educational Studies Association (OESA)
- Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society
  http://ovpes.org/

Other academic conferences may fit to your area of interest. If you are interested in participating in a conference, please consult our faculty members for more information. Also, if your conference proposal/research involve human subjects, you need to apply for an IRB for your study. Please go back to page 16 and click here for more important information.

Publications

There are a number of publication venues relevant to Social Foundations. Your advisor, instructors, or committee members may help you identify the appropriate journal for your work. There are some examples:

Educational Theory; Educational Philosophy and Theory; Journal of Philosophy of Education; Philosophical Studies in Education; Anthropology & Education Quarterly; Comparative Education Review; American Journal of Education; Journal of Educational Controversy; Educational Studies; Intercultural Education; Teaching and Teacher Education; Teaching Education; Journal of Thought
Resources

Graduate College

- Graduate College: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/
- OSU Catalog: https://registrar.okstate.edu/University-Catalog
- Academic Calendar: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/graduate-college-academic-calendar
- Fall/Spring/Summer Enrollment Guidelines: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/enrollment
- Graduate Assistantships: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/assistantship
- Graduate College Academic Calendar: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/graduate-college-academic-calendar
- Graduate Degree/Certificate Programs: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/degree
- Graduate Faculty Database: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/faculty-staff-resources
- Graduate Student Appeals Policy: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/appeals-policy
- Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) (includes application process for professional travel reimbursement): http://temp-gpsga.okstate.edu/
- Graduate College Forms: http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/FormsPage
- Graduate Student Appeals: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/content/appeals-policy
- Graduation Checklist (Doctoral Degree): http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/doctoral-checklist
- Graduation Checklist (Master’s Degree): http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/masters-checklist
- International Teaching Assistant Test: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/ita
- OSU Best Practices: Advisory Committees and Defenses: https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/best-practices
• Test of English Language Proficiency: [http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/telp](http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/telp)

**Oklahoma State University**

• Career Services: [http://www.hireosugrads.com/StudentsAlumni/](http://www.hireosugrads.com/StudentsAlumni/)

• Edmon Low Library: [http://www.library.okstate.edu/](http://www.library.okstate.edu/)

• Family Resource Center: [http://www.reslife.okstate.edu/frc/](http://www.reslife.okstate.edu/frc/)

• Health Insurance (Student): [http://uhs.okstate.edu/student-health-insurance-plan](http://uhs.okstate.edu/student-health-insurance-plan)

• Information Technology: [http://www.it.okstate.edu/](http://www.it.okstate.edu/)

• Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence: [http://itle.okstate.edu/](http://itle.okstate.edu/)

• OSU Internal Review Board - [https://irb.okstate.edu/](https://irb.okstate.edu/)

• International Student and Scholars Office: [http://iss.okstate.edu/](http://iss.okstate.edu/)

• International Students Arrival and Orientation: [http://iss.okstate.edu/arrival-orientation](http://iss.okstate.edu/arrival-orientation)

• Office of Multicultural Affairs: [http://icae.okstate.edu/](http://icae.okstate.edu/)

• OSU Writing Center: [http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/](http://osuwritingcenter.okstate.edu/)

• Residential Life: [http://www.reslife.okstate.edu/](http://www.reslife.okstate.edu/)

• Responsible Conduct Research Training: [http://compliance.okstate.edu/rcr/training](http://compliance.okstate.edu/rcr/training)

• OSU Research Compliance, Human Subjects Research Design Guidance: [https://irb.okstate.edu/research-design-guidance](https://irb.okstate.edu/research-design-guidance)

• Seretean Wellness Center: [http://wellness.okstate.edu/](http://wellness.okstate.edu/)

• Services for Students with Disabilities: [http://sds.okstate.edu/](http://sds.okstate.edu/)

• Student Affairs: [https://studentaffairs.okstate.edu/](https://studentaffairs.okstate.edu/)

• Student Code of Conduct: [https://studentconduct.okstate.edu/code](https://studentconduct.okstate.edu/code)

• The OSU Student Union: [http://union.okstate.edu/](http://union.okstate.edu/)

• University Counseling Services: [http://ucs.okstate.edu/](http://ucs.okstate.edu/)
• University Health Services: http://uhs.okstate.edu/

• University Parking Services: https://parking.okstate.edu/

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