



Brown University Department of Education Studies

Learning Outcomes



Inquiry and Analysis

Critical Consumption of Research

- Read critically for argument and understanding
- Demonstrate their understanding of scholarly literature, particularly within their Area of Emphasis
- Demonstrate understanding of the assumptions and principles underlying common education research methods
- Identify research questions and evaluate research design in scholarship
- Demonstrate understanding and articulate the appropriate uses of different types of data, including data strengths and limitations in a given context

Skills of Inquiry and Analysis

- Formulate research questions and design a research project
- Synthesize literature on a given topic
- Collect data appropriate to a research question and draw conclusions from it
- Utilize library resources effectively, including search tools, databases, and physical resources
- Write essays and papers that have a thesis, marshal relevant evidence, anticipate counter arguments, and come to reasoned conclusions
- Demonstrate basic competence in quantitative and/or qualitative research methods

Synthesizing Knowledge and Transferring Skills

- Adapt and apply skills, theories, or methods gained in one course or scholarly discipline to another
- Demonstrate coherent understanding of the salient contemporary issues and challenges in education
- Connect theory to real world information and practice
- Approach education issues from multiple perspectives

Communication

- Demonstrate writing proficiency according to accepted scholarly conventions
- Write effectively and persuasively for non-specialists
- Organize and present social science data clearly
- Orally express ideas persuasively and effectively
- Collaborate effectively with a partner or team
- Engage in scholarly discussion and debate

Metacognition

- Assess and revise their approaches to learning
- Identify their own strengths and weaknesses
- Identify their own desired learning outcomes
- Summarize, document, report and reflect on their own progress
- Connect experience within the concentration to desired life outcomes



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Other Liberal Learning Goals

- Reflect on the role of policies, developmental and institutional dynamics that have shaped their own personal histories
- Explain rationally the viewpoints on education issues they care about the most
- Demonstrate a commitment to applying education studies to the real world
- Demonstrate understanding of the perspectives and experiences of diverse cultural heritages and groups
- Engage fundamental questions about justice, equity, opportunity, and fairness
- Articulate their own views about the responsibilities of the field of education to society
- Connect education to other social and civic issues

Content Knowledge

Human Development

- Demonstrate understanding of the major theories pertaining to human development
- Demonstrate understanding of the major issues in the learning process
- Describe key aspects of normative physical, cognitive, and social processes in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood
- Analyze how contexts, including families, schools, peers, neighborhoods, and broader societal influences such as immigration, shape youth development
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationships of schools to families and communities

History and Policy

- Demonstrate understanding of the important issues in education policy today and situate them in historical and political context
- Demonstrate understanding of the policy process, including policy-making, policy implementation, and program evaluation
- Demonstrate understanding of basic economic approaches to education analysis
- Use analysis of primary and secondary sources to develop insights applicable to contemporary education issues
- Demonstrate basic understanding of the ongoing debates over the proper relationships between schools and other important institutions