



**HIGHER, ADULT, AND LIFELONG EDUCATION  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM**

**Admissions Information for Prospective Students**  
[education.msu.edu/ead/HALE/phdhale](http://education.msu.edu/ead/HALE/phdhale)

**Program Overview:**

The highly ranked PhD program in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education (HALE) offers core, elective, research, and methods courses to prepare its graduates to be leading scholars, researchers, and practitioners within the higher education sector, both domestically and internationally. In addition to these courses, a combination of experiences, including seminars, independent studies, and international study abroad opportunities, complement students' learning.

With an innovative curriculum that integrates policy and international scholarship and experiences, the HALE program begins with foundational courses in the following areas: Organization and Administration in Postsecondary Education; Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum in Postsecondary Education; Policy Development and Analysis in Postsecondary Education; and Students in Postsecondary Education. The program provides students the opportunity to pursue a specialized course of study through elective, research, and methods courses, as well as several intellectual hallmarks that include dissertations, where students can pursue research questions of interest.

**The HALE PhD Curriculum:**

With the assistance of an advisor, doctoral students plan a program of study tailored to meet their educational needs and professional goals. Students in the HALE doctoral program will enroll in a minimum of 45 course credit hours and at least 24 dissertation research credit hours. The curriculum consists of core, elective, and research methodology courses.

**Admissions Criteria:**

The admissions committee considers the following criteria for recommending admission to the HALE PhD program:

- A graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (students with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted provisionally)
- References that showcase your academic ability and commitment to the field of higher, adult, or lifelong education
- Official scores from the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years
- Personal statement that addresses the following questions:
  1. What experiences led to your interest in pursuing the HALE PhD program?
  2. What qualities, characteristics, and skills do you possess that will make you a strong candidate for the HALE PhD program?
  3. How will the HALE PhD program at Michigan State University help you meet your personal and professional goals?
- Writing sample that demonstrates analytic and integrative thinking. Examples might include research papers completed for a graduate class, grant proposals, research reports, or published articles
- Professional or paraprofessional experience

**Application Process:**

- Complete the online MSU graduate application ([admissions.msu.edu/admission/graduate.asp](http://admissions.msu.edu/admission/graduate.asp); HALE PhD program code is 2245)
  1. Pay the application fee
  2. The graduate school application asks for an academic statement and a personal statement. Under each field, please enter "Please see my personal statement uploaded on the Graduate Education applicant portal."
  3. Provide contact information for three recommenders
- On the Graduate Education applicant portal, upload the following files (in PDF format):
  1. Personal statement
  2. Resume
  3. Writing sample
- **Request official transcripts from each college or university attended be sent to:**

*Higher, Adult, & Lifelong Education Program  
c/o HALE Admissions Assistant  
Department of Educational Administration  
620 Farm Lane, 423 Erickson  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1034*
- Supply official scores from Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years (MSU's ETS Institution Code is R1465).

Please note that academic interviews are not part of the admissions process. Admitted students are invited to the Graduate Research Colloquium which will provide many opportunities to meet and talk with current faculty members.

**International Applicants:**

For information about additional materials needed for international applicants, please visit the Graduate School Application website at <http://grad.msu.edu/apply/>.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**December 1**

Deadline to apply to HALE PhD program for optimal consideration. Completed applications received after December 1st will be considered for fall admission as space permits.

**Mid-February**

Graduate Research Colloquium

**CONTACT US**

For more information about our program, to schedule a visit, or to speak with a current student about their experience, please contact us at [haleadm@msu.edu](mailto:haleadm@msu.edu) or 517-353-5187