

After Admission—Making Progress

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Upon admission to the doctoral program, students are assigned an initial advisor. Initial advisors can help students select appropriate coursework, discuss topics of interest, and recommend seminal works that students may wish to read to get oriented to their respective fields or areas of interest. Students must meet with their initial advisors during each Spring semester to discuss program progress and complete the Annual Review form that is submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The Annual Review process should include confirming the courses completed and those planned for the coming semesters, as well as completion of any of the USU Ph. D. Residency Requirements. The Annual Review is also a time for initial advisors to help students determine their Supervisory Committee Chair and faculty who can serve as members of the Supervisory Committee. These are the faculty who will support students in the design and completion of their dissertation research. In some cases, the initial advisor becomes the Supervisory Committee Chair (also known as the Major Professor) and works with the student in determining at least four other members of the Supervisory Committee and planning an approved Program of Study (the courses that will fulfill the degree requirements).

After 12 Credits—Establishing a Committee

After the first year of coursework, with the guidance of the initial advisors, students should file the form that establishes their approved Supervisory Committee. If a student and the initial advisor clearly do not share common research interests, this is the time to identify a new advisor from among TEAL or approved faculty. Identified faculty must be approved to chair or serve on doctoral committees within the C & I doctoral program. Graduate faculty status is determined by the department and approved by the Dean and a list of approved faculty is available from the Graduate Program Coordinator.

It is the student's responsibility to contact faculty, inform them of any areas of specialization and research interests, and invite them to serve on the student's committee. Students must include one faculty member outside of TEAL and should include someone to provide guidance on research methods. Once the five-member committee (including a Chair, an outside member and a methodologist) is determined, the Supervisory Committee form is submitted for signatures by the Graduate Program Director and forwarded to the Graduate Dean for consideration and final approval.

The Supervisory Committee Approval Form is available on the School of Graduate Studies [website](#). The School of Graduate Studies requires this form to be submitted prior to the end of the third semester.

After 12 Credits—Filing a Program of Study

Once the Supervisory Committee has been arranged and the form submitted, students should work with the Supervisory Committee Chair to file an approved Program of Study, which lists the courses that will fulfill the course requirements for the program. TEAL provides Planning Guides for students to understand the required courses and elective options available in the respective concentrations. The total course credit in the TEAL Ph. D. in Education program is 48 (with the dissertation work comprising 12 credits for the 60-credit degree). The Program of Study form is available on the School of Graduate Studies [website](#). Students should keep a copy of this document for their own records.

Remember that the responsibility for knowing and following degree procedures and requirements rests with the student. However, the Graduate Program Director, the Graduate Program Coordinator, and the Supervisory Committee Chair are available to provide direction and support students in making progress and completing the degree.