

## **SRAM Doctor of Philosophy Program**

The Ph.D. program builds on the kind of skills and knowledge acquired in the SRAM M.S. program in Survey Research and Methodology. To be admitted into the Ph.D. program, applicants must usually have completed a Master's degree or its equivalent in Survey Research and Methodology, or a related field accepted by the Graduate Committee. Anyone accepted into the program may be required to complete courses that demonstrate that their credentials match the skills and knowledge that students acquire from earning an M.S. in Survey Research and Methodology. These required courses must be completed in order to become eligible to have a Supervisory Committee appointed. Decisions about which courses are required will rest with the Graduate Committee.

The Ph.D. program consists of a minimum of 90 credit hours. These may include transfer credits for students who have earned degrees outside of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; 45 credit hours must be earned after the appointment of the Ph.D. student's Supervisory Committee. No courses may be taken on a Pass / No Pass basis and all Ph.D. students are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

The Ph.D. program is designed to train students both in the issues that govern sound survey research practice and in the theoretical frameworks of those disciplines that contribute to Survey Research and Methodology. Students will opt for either statistical or design and implementation tracks, each of which have their own sets of requirements. The Ph.D. dissertation must consist of an original research contribution that advances knowledge in the field of Survey Research and Methodology and demonstrates the candidate's expertise in both practice and theory.

## **Doctor of Philosophy Curriculum**

### **Language and Research Tool Requirement**

Prior to admission to candidacy students must demonstrate proficiency in technical and scientific writing. The student's supervisory committee may require course work as part of the language and research tool requirement.

### **Core Requirements (min 15 credit hours)**

Core courses are designed to ensure that students acquire the methodological and theoretical skills necessary to design sound Survey Research and Methodological studies. Ph.D. students must satisfy the core course requirements of the SRAM MS program. In addition, the following courses (or equivalents) are required:

- SRAM 915 – Advanced Sampling
- SRAM 921 – Total Survey Error
- SRAM 947 – Questionnaire Design

SRAM 998 – Advanced Topics in Survey Analysis (Special Topics)  
SRAM 998 – Survey Management (Special Topics)

**Statistical or Design and Implementation Tracks (minimum of 15 credit hours)**

Each student's supervisory committee will tailor a program of study that best matches the student's interests and strengths. Students will decide either to follow a statistical track or to follow a design and implementation track in their course of studies. Within either track, their studies will concentrate on essential aspects that contribute to Survey Research and Methodology.

**Within the statistical track**, students will be required to complete course work and seminars dealing with statistical, probability and sampling theory. For example, courses on the general linear model, mixed and hierarchical linear models, issues in advanced sampling, finite mixture models, analysis of data from complex sample designs, missing data imputation and related topics will be included in this track.

**Within the design and implementation track**, students complete course work in their areas of interest such as cognitive and social psychology, health and educational research, cross-cultural comparative research, or in any social science discipline that is dependent on survey data to draw scientific inferences.

**Comprehensive Examination**

In order to advance to candidacy (to be able to submit a dissertation), the student must pass a written comprehensive examination demonstrating mastery of the core areas of Survey Research and Methodology and in the student's specialty area chosen from the statistical or the design and implementation tracks. In general, students are strongly encouraged to pass the comprehensive examination before submitting a dissertation proposal. See section 3.3 of this handbook for more information on the Ph.D. comprehensive examination.

**Dissertation Research (minimum of 12 credit hours)** As an original contribution to the knowledge base of Survey Research and Methodology, the dissertation must consist of an empirical study that includes analysis of primary or secondary data sources, or both. For completion of degree requirements, in addition to a written dissertation, students must pass an oral dissertation defense as required by Graduate Studies.