

## **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) or Doctor of Education (Ed.D)**

**Doctoral graduates** are prepared to be educational leaders. Many assume positions as teacher educators, curriculum directors, state department of education personnel, or leaders in other educational settings. Many of them also add educational leadership courses to their program and assume administrative roles in the school. A few doctoral graduates choose to remain in their classrooms serving as leaders and mentors for their colleagues. Doctoral level graduates generate and utilize research, apply research and theory in curriculum development, and communicate ideas through writing and speaking with other professionals in the field.

Doctoral degree graduates complete a program of study that requires a minimum of 99 graduate hours of coursework post bachelors, which includes 18 hours of dissertation. A minimum of 30 hours above the master's degree must be taken at The University of Mississippi. These hours do not include dissertation hours. In addition, the graduate must successfully complete and orally defend a dissertation representing independent and original research.

Each doctoral graduate develops a professional portfolio, completes 75 clock hours of a variety of field based opportunities, and successfully completes a written comprehensive examination.