Guided by the question, “What do you want to get smart about,” I embarked on the most remarkable academic journey of my life when I enrolled in the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program at the Benerd School of Education. I strongly recommend the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program because the professors are passionate about educating students to discover their scholarly passion.

Theresa Stovall, Ed.D., (2011) Modesto City College

Once I had made a decision to pursue a doctorate in Education I had to decide on a place of study. While location played a part in my decision, I wanted an experience that was personal, challenging and provided me the skills and knowledge to become a successful professor. I visited many local universities and decided to attend The University of the Pacific because I preferred Pacific’s philosophy and approach to teaching. I experienced a rigorous program that stretched my creativity, thinking, and skills. The small seminar groups and class sizes appealed to my personal desire to learn from my peers, to get to know my professors and to build a supportive professional network.


I evaluated other doctoral programs before deciding on the Benerd School of Education. I made the right choice. I found the courses stimulating and the faculty supportive- a true collegial environment. I highly recommend it!

Larry Grimes, Ed.D. (2012) Biology Teacher, Sierra High School, Manteca California
The Gladys L. Benerd School of Education doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction was one of the truly positive, pivotal and transformational experiences of my life. The faculty is very caring and supportive of their students—they provide numerous opportunities for professional and personal growth. This includes publishing in academic journals and presenting at professional and academic conferences. The program provides invaluable and in-depth information and insights relative to curriculum theory, structure and assessment, pedagogical theory and practice, data-based decision making and educational policy analysis. I feel that I have been well prepared to undertake a variety of positions in public education and academia.

John A. Cassell, Ed.D. (2013), Visiting Faculty,
University of the Pacific

The doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction at Pacific provided an excellent foundation for my career path as an educator and administrator in nursing education. Professors, who are experts in their discipline, become part of your family and are mentors for life.

Antoinette Herrera, Ed.D. (2012),
Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Evergreen Valley College
The doctorate program at University of the Pacific was a great experience. The coursework was fashioned in a manner that allowed each student to learn and grow in the area that most interested them. Not only were students able to “get smart” in their particular field, but we learned a great deal from each other. The program pushes students to go beyond their comfort zone, prepares students to be leaders in the field, and gives students a solid introduction to what it means to be a researcher and practitioner. The professors develop a strong personal connection with the students and the students with one another. This tremendous support system provides the scaffolding for successful growth both academically and professionally. I would highly recommend the doctoral program at the University of the Pacific.

Janine S. Fisk, Ed.D. (2012), Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

My doctoral experience at the University of the Pacific Benerd School of Education was an exceedingly rare combination of support and structure while progressing through each stage of the process paired with incredible freedom to independently develop and pursue my unique research interests. The faculty’s unconditional belief in me and my abilities, steeled my strength and ultimately made it possible to produce the most sterling work of my career thus far. Moreover, the friendship so graciously given by my professors has extended far beyond the brick and mortar walls and is an unparalleled aspect of my experience that I will always treasure.

Deborah Reeves-Gutierrez, Ed.D. (2008) Assistant Professor, Alliant University
You cannot come to a better place to obtain a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction than at the University of the Pacific. It is a community in which small class sizes allow you to better build a relationship and gain guidance from the professors during the program and throughout the dissertation process. You are a part of a greater learning community. Small classes allowed for more in-depth discourse with fellow students and time to focus on scholarship which would be rare to find at other universities.

Associate Professor, California State University, Fullerton

During my time in the doctoral program at Pacific, I worked full time as a kindergarten teacher. The program worked well for me to continue working full time, but was demanding enough that I grew as a person, a professional, a writer and a researcher. I consider my four years in the doctoral program the best years of my educational life. The faculty were some of the most helpful professors and mentors I’ve encountered. I now have a good understanding of research processes that I will continue to use as a foundation for my future in educational research.

Twin Rivers Unified School District
My learning experience at University of the Pacific has been rich and fruitful in many ways. University of the Pacific’s Doctoral program in Curriculum and Instruction brings together a unique combination of interdisciplinary studies, rigorous scholarship, and reflection. It has been a privilege for me to work with and learn from faculty who have been essential in shaping me to be a more effective educator.

Dr. Cynthia Coleman, Ed.D. (2011)
Assistant Professor of Teacher Education
Fresno Pacific University

My experience in the C&I program was unique in that the faculty really catered to my specific interests and needs. I really felt the faculty was student-centered, both in their teaching methods and their approach to mentoring students. I would highly recommend the C&I doctoral program at Pacific because of its distinguished faculty, multidisciplinary courses and intimate class sizes. The greatest aspect of my experience in the C&I program was developing the personal friendships with my peers and my professors. I still enjoy a strong relationship with my dissertation chair to this day.

W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
Flagstaff, Arizona
The doctoral program at the University of the Pacific was a life altering experience. I learned to look at educating students in ways that foster critical reasoning. The faculty was supportive and fostered my confidence throughout the entire program.

Dr. Roxanne Ferguson
Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
California State University, Sacramento

My experience in the Doctor of Education program at University of the Pacific was both enriching and challenging. I had the opportunity to interact with individuals from a variety of disciplines. The professors at Pacific encouraged me to stretch my thinking on educational issues and to strive for a high level of scholarly writing and research. I now have a broader perspective of teaching and learning and of my place within the spectrum of education.

Christine M. Kerfoot
The doctoral journey at Benerd School of Education provided collaborative learning opportunities to explore place-based learning, engage in meaningful academic discussions, and develop innovative ways of crafting a scholarly narrative. Professors actively assisted and inspired me to develop skills in the areas of researching, writing, and presenting qualitative data. These doctoral experiences continue to positively impact the ways I use my imagination and perceive systems as a reflective life-long learner.

Connor Sloan