

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH PRACTICUM (EDUC 711)

Instructors (2016):

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Course Overview:

Education policy and practice increasingly rely on empirical evidence to inform state and local decision-making. With the widespread availability of educational data, there is an increasing need for the timely generation of empirical evidence to support the work of policymakers and practitioners. The *Education Policy Research Practicum* is designed to address this information gap.

Course Description:

This course will partner students with educational leaders to conduct client-based, applied education research projects. The clients will be drawn from GSE's Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), and other schools, districts, and education-related organizations, and applied research teams will be comprised of GSE M.S.Ed. students. Student participants will engage in original empirical analysis, complete written policy reports, and present their findings to clients in end-of-semester formal client briefings.

This course will provide direct benefits to the client as well as to the student research teams. On the client side, the findings will provide immediate, actionable guidance around an issue related to program implementation, educational practice or other questions of educational significance. For the student researchers, this course will enhance both their human capital through real-world training in applied education research as well their social capital through their partnership with high-level education policymakers and practitioners. Moreover, the key findings from these studies will be circulated throughout the Mid-Career, GSE and Penn community to enhance knowledge about important educational issues.
