

# Doctor of Philosophy *in* Education

*Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies*



**A degree for future  
researchers focused on  
the development and  
testing of new approaches  
to learning across a variety  
of real-world settings**

## At A Glance

**Degree Type:** Ph.D. in Education

**Program Length:** 4-6 Years

**Deadline for Fall Admission:** Typically, applications are due early spring. For graduate school funding consideration, priority deadline is typically late fall of the preceding year. For exact dates, visit [ed.unc.edu/lspis](https://ed.unc.edu/lspis).

The Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies (LSPS) concentration of our Ph.D. in Education program prepares you to pursue a career as a scientific researcher. Our graduates study how people learn, drawing on interdisciplinary theory and research from biological, cognitive, social, and cultural perspectives. They use this knowledge to improve education in formal settings like schools and colleges, as well as informal settings that range from museums and community centers to video games and virtual reality. Our graduates also gain the foundational skills necessary to conduct rigorous scientific research, including extensive training in state-of-the-art statistical methodology and data science. Many of our research faculty specialize in the design and evaluation of digital learning technologies, and the implications of these technologies for diverse, equitable, and inclusive education in today's society. As one of only 21 Ph.D. programs worldwide recognized by the International Society of the Learning Sciences, our graduates are uniquely positioned to be leaders among the next generation of educational researchers, prepared for careers in industry, government, and academia.

# Doctor of Philosophy in Education

## Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies

In the LSPS concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program provides its students with:

- **An interdisciplinary education** drawing on theories and methods used in psychology, sociology, anthropology, communication studies, data science and learning analytics, computer science, and software design.
- **Preparation for a career as a researcher** through extensive training in (a) the design and implementation human-subjects research, in the laboratory and in the field, and (b) how to interpret qualitative, quantitative, mixed, and design-based research data.
- **A community of leading researchers**, at Carolina and worldwide, who will guide your training and help you to attain your career goals as a learning scholar.

LSPS students often receive School scholarships and research and policy assistantships with faculty and local organizations. Applicants are also eligible to compete for funding from the UNC Graduate School, including the 5-year Royster Fellowships.



**Dalila Dragnić-Cindrić '20**

*Postdoctoral Researcher*

*Center for Integrative Research in Computing and Learning Sciences*

*Digital Promise*

“I am fascinated by the different ways people deal with uncertainty and make decisions. My research is driven by my desire to discern the best ways for individuals and teams to deal with uncertainty in various settings, from collaborative learning in the classroom to addressing uncertainty in management and medicine.”

## How will you propel the world?

To learn more about the Learning Sciences and Psychological Studies concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program or to learn more about applying, email [ed@unc.edu](mailto:ed@unc.edu).

To learn more about current research projects, visit [ed.unc.edu/lspis](https://ed.unc.edu/lspis).