Institutional Organization / EDP Contacts

The Department of Educational Psychology (Department) is situated administratively within the College of Education. As a graduate student, you were admitted to both the Department and to the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin: you are enrolled in the Graduate School, and your field of study within the Graduate School is Educational Psychology. Your area of specialization is on record in our office and at the Graduate School, but will not appear on your diploma.

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General Structure

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Structure of the Graduate School

The Graduate School is composed of the Office of Graduate Studies, which includes the Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies and staff, and departmental Graduate Studies Committees. The legislative body of the Graduate School is the Graduate Assembly, a group of approximately 30 faculty members (elected from among three groups of academic disciplines) who are members of Graduate Studies Committees. Six graduate students (elected by the Graduate Student Assembly) from degree programs across the Graduate School also serve as representatives on the Assembly. The Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Assembly are responsible for overall policy and for the quality of graduate work. Each department or field of study offering a graduate degree has a Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) that is composed of all active tenured and tenure-track faculty (assistant, associate, and full professors). The GSC sets policy and supervises the Department's graduate programs.

Each department on campus has a Department Chair who oversees the functioning of the department. Each department offering graduate work also has a Graduate Adviser (who serves as the administrative link between the Office of Graduate Studies and the department), as well as a Graduate Coordinator (a staff member who assists the Graduate Adviser). The Graduate Adviser is nominated by the Department Chair and approved by the academic dean(s) involved in the department. See the EDP Staff and Faculty directories for position incumbents.

In addition to your Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Adviser, the Office of Graduate Studies is the central source of information for graduate students. It is the office that administers Graduate School matters and provides processes and guidelines for all stages of graduate study. The Office of Graduate Studies is located in the Main Building (Tower), Room 101.

The EDP Graduate Studies Committee (GSC)

The GSC includes all tenured and tenure-track teaching faculty in the Department. The GSC establishes degree requirements and policies for the department, student evaluations, advancement to candidacy, periodic student reviews, and other graduate student matters. It elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

- **Student Representatives.** Student representatives volunteer to attend some GSC meetings for discussions related to departmental policy and requirements, to serve on Standing Committees, and to provide assistance for departmental functions. All GSC discussion of specific student matters is confidential, and student representatives are not present at student evaluation or review meetings.
- **GSC Executive Committee (GSC EC).** The purpose of this group is to make decisions on student matters in an expeditious manner. The GSC EC decides on student petitions related to waivers of Department requirements. The GSC EC is composed of the GSC Chair and Vice-Chair, the Department Chair, and the Graduate Adviser, who serve as ex officio members.