

October 2022

PhD Community,

After many years of consideration, and input from students and faculty, the PhD faculty have voted to update the name of our research doctoral degree from a “PhD in Urban Education Policy” to a **“PhD in Education.”** Our website will include be updated to include the new name.

Pending University approval, the new name will go into effect fall 2023. Entering students, as well as continuing students, will have the option of being granted a diploma with the former degree name or the new degree name. The “PhD in Urban Education Policy” name will expire for all students in summer 2028. Any students graduating after summer 2028 will automatically have the new name, “PhD in Education,” on their diploma.

The conversations about updating the degree name have been ongoing for the past several years. There has been widespread agreement among students and faculty that the degree name was no longer suitable for the program. Students and faculty have expressed two main concerns with the previous degree name of “PhD in Urban Education Policy.” First, it is not always clear what is meant by “urban education.” Second, not all students or faculty focus on policy. The new degree name has been chosen to resolve these concerns and create a broader umbrella that is reflective of all the work done by Rossier PhD students and faculty. In offering a “PhD in Education”, we will continue to focus on concentrations and specializations that align with student and faculty interests and expertise.

This shift does not change our core mission. Our commitment to equity in education remains a focus of our program design, our recruitment and selection of students, and selection of future faculty. The name update will not impact our curriculum and course offerings will remain the same.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of these discussions and planning, both recently and over the years.

All the best,
PhD Faculty

