Project ProPELL: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply to be in Project ProPELL?
• Click on the following link to learn more about the application process.

What are the deadlines for applying to Project ProPELL?
• For best consideration, applicants should apply by December 1st, 2015 and no later than February 15th, 2016.

How many years is Project ProPELL? Is it full-time?
• ProPELL is designed to be a 4 year full-time program using a cohort model; special circumstances may be considered.

Can I continue to work for my current employer during the summer? During the year?
• ProPELL is designed to be a full-time program with the option of summer funding; we will consider special circumstances as needed.

What kind of funding support will I receive? For what? How much?
• ProPELL students will receive an annual stipend, tuition, health insurance, support for conference travel, and dissertation funding support. Full package details will be provided in admissions letters.

What research opportunities will I have?
• All faculty are involved in school-based projects. You will have the opportunity to work on at least one of these research projects tailored to your interests.

What teaching opportunities will I have?
• You will have a class on college teaching and you will co-teach a class with a faculty member. In addition, you may have an opportunity to teach your own class within the special education program.

Is this a cohort-based program? How many students will be in the cohort? Do we take all classes together?
• Yes, ProPELL is designed to be a cohort-based program for approximately 5-6 students. We expect that you will take most classes together.

How many classes will I take? What classes?
• For a general overview of the special education doctoral program, please see our program handbook: Special Education Doctoral Program Handbook
Will I get travel funding for conferences?
• ProPELL students will receive funding support to participate in at least one conference with opportunities for additional funding as need arises.

Will I get funding to help with my dissertation?
• ProPELL students will receive partial or full funding for dissertation work based on their needs.

What kinds of dissertations do people typically do (topics, methods, process)?
• ProPELL students will complete a three-paper dissertation, the format of which includes a research synthesis plus two empirical studies. This process is used in order to maximize publication opportunities for early career professionals. Topics and methods vary. Recent dissertations include:

  - Reading Comprehension Strategy Instruction In Upper-Elementary Classrooms with English Language Learners: A Study of Practices and Outcomes

  - A Bilingual Family Literacy Program for Families of English of English Language Learners: Experiences, Perspectives, and Literacy Practices from three focal families

  - The Effects of Prompt Condition and Genre on the Writing Performance of Students in General Education, Students Learning English as a Second Language and Students with Learning Disabilities

  - The Effects of Strategy Instruction with a Modified CDO Procedure in General Education Settings.

  - Using Argumentative Discussions to Enhance the Written Arguments of Middle School Students in Social Studies Classrooms

  - Investigating the use of MAZE CBM for High School Students

  - The Effects of Disciplinary Literacy Instruction on Reading Comprehension and Historical Knowledge

Will I have any publications by the time I graduate?
• Students are provided with opportunities to publish with faculty and support to publish on their own throughout the program.

What types of jobs will the program prepare us for?
• The ProPELL program will prepare students for a range of higher education, research, and leadership positions.
Who will my advisor be? How will advisors be chosen?

- Students will be matched with a project ProPELL advisor based on mutual interests.

What other opportunities are there on the UMD campus to be a part of as a graduate student?

- There are a range of organizations and opportunities across campus that ProPELL students can affiliate with. Relevant organizations include the Language Science Center (LSC) [https://languagescience.umd.edu/](https://languagescience.umd.edu/), the Language and Literacy Research Center (LLRC) [https://languagescience.umd.edu/research/language-and-education](https://languagescience.umd.edu/research/language-and-education), and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO).

Is there any UMD support, outside of ProPELL, available?

- Yes, ProPELL students can apply for funding through the graduate school for seed grants, travel awards, dissertation support, and support through NIH.

Will I have office space?

- ProPELL students will have designated office space in the LLRC research hub.

Will I have opportunities to be exposed to national experts?

- Part of the ProPELL program will include seminars and colloquia featuring national experts. ProPELL students will have an opportunity to attend presentations and interact with these experts.