Our Faculty

Ralph G. Brockett, PhD  
Professor  
brockett@utk.edu

Mitsunori Misawa, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
mmisawa@utk.edu

Qi Sun, EdD  
Associate Professor & Program Coordinator  
qsun8@utk.edu

How to Apply

January 1 is the priority deadline for fall. Applicants may still apply through February 1 with the understanding that funding will be highly unlikely and space may be limited.

October 1 is the deadline for spring.

Application requirements can be found on the website.

Contact Us

Website  
epc.utk.edu/adult-learning

Program Coordinator  
Qi Sun, EdD  
Associate Professor & Program Coordinator  
519 Bailey Education Complex  
1126 Volunteer Blvd.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-3452  
865-974-5403  
qsun8@utk.edu
About our Program

The PhD Concentration in Adult Learning, part of the educational psychology and research major, has a long and rich history at the University of Tennessee. It is designed for people interested in many areas, such as adult education, continuing education, higher education, workplace learning, community-based organizations, and government organizations.

This program offers a great learning community with flexible options benefiting both part-time and full-time study. Adult Learning is designed to develop graduates who are successful scholars and reflective practitioners.

Students gain a background in such areas as educational foundations, adult learning and development, and research methods. Recent graduates of the program have taken positions in such settings as colleges and universities, healthcare, business, and community-based education.

Program Goals
The Adult Learning program is designed to help participants:

- Better understand adult learning in terms of its theoretical and conceptual underpinnings as well as its operation in practical situations;
- Be further prepared for the increasingly changing demands of professional life and personal enrichment;
- Enhance knowledge and skills in assisting adult learners with global visions;
- Broaden ideas and competency to live and work within a knowledge society; and
- Learn skills in order to make contributions to the areas of adult learning and educational psychology through presentations and publication of original research.

Program Characteristics
The Adult Learning program is built upon three foundations to help students become well-rounded professionals:

1. **Educational foundations** are focused on the socio-cultural analyses of educational psychology as they related to your areas of interest. Foundations also include the philosophical and historical perspectives that shaped our field over time.

2. **Learning and development** includes conceptional analyses of human development, learning theories, principles, practices, and perspectives that apply to knowledge or skills acquisition in the program.

3. **Research and scholarship** involves advanced work in research necessary for understanding, analyzing, and interpreting data and research design. This also focuses on skills and expertise in conducting, synthesizing, and disseminating original research.