Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, EdD

The Doctor of Education (EdD) in educational policy and leadership studies is designed for educators who seek a terminal doctoral degree to practice upper-level leadership in pre-kindergarten through higher education (PK–20) settings. Based on the scholar-practitioner model, the EdD differs from the PhD in that it allows for a more practical-based approach to use and perform applied research in educational settings grounded in problem-based learning pedagogy. Students elect to join their cohort class either on campus in Iowa City or through a hybrid program. The EdD employs a blended learning delivery of online, in-person, condensed, and weekend courses.

The EdD is a non-deposit degree program. Students will complete a capstone project based on a problem of practice in their own work setting. The capstone proposal course serves as the equivalent of the comprehensive exam, and a final capstone project is required for graduation as a dissertation equivalent.

Learning Outcomes

EdD graduates will be able to:

• apply the knowledge, skills, and inquiry strategies to solve significant problems related to educational policies and practices;
• evaluate and use data to make judgments to improve practice and policy;
• understand and apply evidence of effective organizational and systemic change for equity, inclusion, and justice;
• frame situations from multiple perspectives;
• identify and meet contemporary challenges facing schools and higher education;
• embrace differences of persons and perspectives;
• develop a critical and professional perspective that is ethical and promotes change for equity and inclusion;
• link theory with systematic inquiry and assessment to improve educational policy and practice; and
• execute a scholarly project that addresses real and complex problems in practice.