Educational Policy
and Leadership
Studies, Ed.D.

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) 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 Ed.D. differs from the Ph.D. degree 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 Ed.D. employs a blended learning delivery of online, in-person, condensed, and weekend courses.

Educational Outcomes

Ed.D. 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.