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. The EdD is offered fully online with synchronous (live) instruction.

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

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
- complete a dissertation in practice using scholarly methods to address field-based problems and develop meaningful solutions.