

# Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, PhD

## Educational Leadership

The Doctor of Philosophy program in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires a minimum of 90 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must earn a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The program prepares scholarly professionals for leadership positions in a wide range of educational and public sector settings. Students acquire strong backgrounds in leadership, policy, and research. They equip themselves to discover, integrate, and apply knowledge as transformational leaders.

The PhD in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires the following work.

Requirements	Hours
Common Courses	12
Cognate Courses	9
Electives	29
Concentration Area Courses	12
Research Courses	18
Dissertation	10

Students also complete the comprehensive examination and a dissertation, described below.

Many educational leadership courses are offered by distance education; see MyUI for information about courses offered during current semesters.

For more detailed coursework information, see Educational Leadership on the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies website.

## Research Courses

All educational leadership PhD students must complete EPLS:6206 Research Process and Design during the first year of their PhD program. They also must complete a minimum of 15 s.h. in qualitative and quantitative coursework, with at least 9 s.h. from one area (qualitative or quantitative) and at least 6 s.h. from the other. Students select from courses listed under PhD Research Requirements on the college's Graduate Student Life website.

## Comprehensive Examination

Students must satisfactorily complete a written take-home comprehensive examination consisting of three parts. The first part covers a student's major area of study, and the second covers two additional concentration areas. The third is on the student's outside area of study and is prepared by faculty members outside the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies. The written exams are followed by an oral examination.

## Dissertation

Students must write a dissertation based on an original research project in an area of educational leadership. Students must earn 10 s.h. of credit for dissertation research. The doctoral program culminates with a final oral defense of the dissertation. Students must be registered at the University of Iowa during the session in which they graduate.

## Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College and of the educational leadership program. They also must satisfy the residency requirement of two full-time (at least 9 s.h.) registrations. Required application materials include transcripts, official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of career goals. Admission is based on grade-point average and GRE scores (however, the GRE requirement has been suspended for the 2022–23 admissions cycle), promise for scholarly and professional growth, and recommendations. Complete applications are reviewed as they are received.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For specific score requirements, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.