

Ed.D. Educational Leadership - Ed.D.

The Educational Leadership Ed.D. program has established itself as a prominent preparation program for educational leaders. With its focus on preparing graduates who can think, learn and perform as educational leaders, the program exemplifies the university's mission of blending academic and work-based learning for career advancement. The doctoral program's particular focus is on the creation and use of knowledge to impact education practice.

The program emphasizes the preparation of educators who aspire to advance to leadership positions in their respective fields. To do so, these educators must keep abreast of developments and current practices in their fields, keep current in their knowledge, embrace contemporary practices, and develop and maintain the skills to recognize, evaluate and lead change. The on-ground program is designed with distinct specializations in higher education and elementary-secondary education. The online program is focused on higher education.

Program outcomes are designed so that graduates develop skills in leadership, collaboration, communication, research, critical thinking and problem solving.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are expected to:

- Define problems, not just recognize symptoms, to ask the right questions, to think beyond the obvious, to develop and test several alternatives, and chose the option that maximizes the results.
- Utilize existing research, data and appropriate research methodology to develop and test alternative solutions, and to choose the best course of action.
- Communicate appropriately to individuals and groups of various sizes orally and in writing in order to teach students, to persuade others, to mediate disputes and to build convincing cases.
- Structure educational environments in which leadership roles and responsibilities are shared; in which the mission, goals and work are determined collaboratively; in which evidence overrides opinion, tradition and bias; in which decisions are made in a timely manner and communicated efficiently; and in which others are motivated to do more than they thought they could.
- Think beyond common constraints, to take calculated risks and to advocate stretched goals in order to bring fresh perspectives to educational issues and problems and to open the way for new and potential promising solutions.
- Articulate a vision for technology utilization in order to model and promote effective uses; to support teaching and learning; to improve management functions; to provide forward-thinking leadership and management to continuously improve organizations; and to facilitate better understanding of social, ethical and legal issues and responsibilities related to a digital age culture.
- Recognize and take into account the ethical and legal dimension of potential actions, to practice and promote social awareness and ethical behavior, and to encourage others to do the same.

Cohort Structure

The cohort structure is essential to the philosophy of the program. Students enter and progress through courses as a group, fostering a team approach to studying and solving educational problems, and interpreting and disseminating the results of such study. An important outcome of the program is to establish, over time, a true network of working scholars who can examine, critique, support and complement one another's educational practice.

Instruction

Faculty use a variety of instructional methods with an emphasis on experiential, collaborative, project-based and interactive techniques. Instructional technology is used to design an innovative learning experience and serve as a model for what tomorrow's educational leaders will use in their schools and agencies. The opportunity for deep discussion with peers, faculty and advisors will occur in a hybrid format for on-ground students and through writing, video conferencing and teleconferencing for online students. Additionally, site visits and visiting professors are incorporated into the curriculum.

Principal Residency Network (PRN)*

Upon successful admission to the PRN and the JWU doctoral program, aspiring principals are able to earn credit toward the doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at JWU through successful completion of the PRN program.

*This is for on-ground only.

Program Requirements

To satisfy program requirements, each student must successfully

1. complete 60 credit hours (48 hours of coursework and 12 hours of dissertation work, which forms the basis for the dissertation);
2. maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25;
3. maintain continuous enrollment, even during dissertation work;
4. successfully complete the comprehensive assessment;
5. submit a dissertation proposal within 18 months of completion of coursework; and
6. complete all program requirements within six academic years from the initial date of matriculation.
(Note: For a valid reason, the Educational Leadership program director may extend deadlines.)

All communication to students from the university will be conducted through the university email system, and students are required to use and check this account on a regular basis.

A student becomes an official candidate for the degree upon successfully completing all courses, passing the Comprehensive Assessment, and receiving formal IRB approval of the dissertation proposal.

Comprehensive Assessment

The comprehensive assessment is scheduled after coursework is completed. The purpose of this authentic assessment is to determine whether a student has mastered the knowledge and developed the skills required in the Educational Leadership Program competencies, and is thus ready to undertake dissertation work. The assessment is a required exercise designed to support students in preparation for their dissertation work and is an ungraded exercise.

Field Project

Upon the completion of coursework, students are required to register for EDUC9005 The Field Research Project. With the guidance of faculty, students will propose a field project. Detailed procedures and expectations for the entire research/defense phase of the program appear in the Educational Leadership Program Guide and Dissertation Handbook. This research must focus on a practical and significant problem or issue that can be resolved effectively. The student's doctoral committee must approve all field projects.

Dissertation

Students are required to submit a dissertation that demonstrates they have acquired the technical and professional competencies associated with educational leadership and the ability to conduct research. The dissertation identifies an issue of concern, reports on the existing body of knowledge, and presents significant research that would advance present information. If the research and dissertation are collaborative, clearly delineated individual components will reflect each student's substantive contribution to the report and its defense.

The dissertation describes a research project in which students apply best theory and practice. The problem may be drawn from students' workplaces or from some other setting.

In keeping with the mission and conceptual framework of the Educational Leadership Program, students are strongly encouraged to develop dissertations on topics dealing with educational leadership in K-16 and lifelong learning settings.

To expedite the process of completing the dissertation, students will receive close, ongoing faculty supervision and shall defend the dissertation within three years of approval of the topic. The computerized links between students and faculty and the small size of the program will help ensure that a high level of supervision takes place. The Educational Leadership Program Guide and Dissertation Handbook describes the process in detail.

Students who do not complete the dissertation in the prescribed time will be automatically scheduled for EDUC9011 Doctoral Dissertation Advisement. This continuation requires a Dissertation Advisement Fee per semester (fall, spring and summer), until the successful completion of program requirements.

Students scheduling the dissertation defense while enrolled in EDUC9011 Doctoral Dissertation Advisement will continue to be enrolled and charged appropriate tuition until the grade change process is submitted and complete with Student Academic & Financial Services.

Doctoral Program Courses

Instruction is scheduled in a sequence of six-credit courses addressing significant areas of educational leadership. Students will complete their coursework in years one and two and their dissertation in year three.

Elementary-Secondary Education

EDUC7004	Research I	6
EDUC7011	Strategy & Change	6
EDUC7032	Organizational Theory, Behavior, and Development in Elementary-Secondary Education	6
EDUC7035	Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	6
EDUC8004	Research II	6
EDUC8017	Resource Planning and Management in Elementary-Secondary Education	6
EDUC8027	Family and Community Engagement	6
EDUC8095	Leadership in Elementary-Secondary Education	6
EDUC9005	The Field Research Project	6
EDUC9010	Doctoral Dissertation	6
Total Credits		60.0

Higher Education

Core Courses

EDUC7004	Research I	6
EDUC7021	Nature of Higher Education	6
EDUC7030	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	6
EDUC7031	Organizational Theory and Behavior in Higher Education	6
EDUC8004	Research II	6
EDUC8016	Resource Planning and Management in Higher Education	6
EDUC8026	Student Development in Higher Education	6
EDUC8090	Leadership in Higher Education Capstone	6
EDUC9005	The Field Research Project	6
EDUC9010	Doctoral Dissertation	6
Total Credits		60.0

All program requirements must be completed within six years. Students who do not complete the dissertation in the prescribed time will be automatically scheduled for EDUC9011, Dissertation Advisement. This continuation requires a Dissertation Advisement Fee per fall, spring and summer semesters.