EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (0010)

Program Coordinator
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The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (edd@wku.edu) provides knowledge and skills for its graduates to become effective change agents within educational and education-related environments. The program is designed to prepare scholarly practitioners whose program content and experiences emphasize application to the real world.

The primary purpose of the program is to develop the ability of education and education-related organizational practitioners to obtain and synthesize knowledge for the solution of institutional problems and practices. The program provides value-added opportunities for candidates to develop breadth and depth in understanding leadership, policy, and applied research methodologies. In addition, program experiences contribute to the development of future leaders who will creatively generate new knowledge, critically conserve valuable and useful ideas, and responsibly transform those understandings through writing, teaching and application. The dissertation for all areas of emphasis is expected to contribute knowledge and understanding of a critical issue drawn from the candidate’s field of practice and be applicable for improving educational organizations.

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership:
1. encourages participants to become practitioner scholars by promoting skills and knowledge in practice-based settings and to gain scholarship and experience in applied behaviors;
2. provides opportunities to explore a range of career specialties in various settings so that participants can make sound career choices;
3. models interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration through the program's management and accountability structures;
4. provides participants with leadership capacity to bring about changes that enhance organizational success; and
5. provides interdisciplinary research preparation focused on contextually based problems central to future global competitiveness.

This program is part of the Educational Administration, Leadership and Research department and is an interdisciplinary program involving faculty and courses from other departments throughout the university. More information may be found at www.wku.edu/cebs/doctorate.

Program Admission

Intended candidates for the degree are individuals who have completed at least a master’s degree (or other appropriate graduate degree), have demonstrated leadership capacity within their organizational settings, and/or are committed to enhancing their abilities to learn and to enhance the educational missions of their organizations and communities. Each student’s academic background and professional experiences will be assessed at the time of admission.

Program admission is based on a holistic evaluation of the candidate’s application file, which must include:

1. Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work;
2. Documentation of a master’s degree (or other graduate degree) from an institution accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization;
3. Completed application;
4. Current (within 1 year of application deadline) resume or vita;
5. An in-depth personal statement including qualifications, rationale, and goals related to pursuing the WKU Ed.D. program;
6. Three current (within 1 year of application deadline) letters of recommendation from persons in a position to evaluate the applicant’s potential for success in a doctoral program; and
7. Submission of GRE scores. Those students who cannot provide scores or have never taken the GRE may be considered for admission through an alternative process. Contact the program director for more information.
8. Submission of a writing sample (requested during the admission review process) if applicants cannot provide GRE scores, took the GRE without the Analytical Writing portion, or if Analytic Writing score falls below preferred minimum.

International students who apply must submit the following additional documents for admission consideration:

1. Evidence of ability to communicate in English (as evidenced by a minimum of 570 on the paper based TOEFL; a minimum of 88 on the iBT TOEFL; a minimum of 7.0 on the IELTS; or a degree from an institution accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization).

Please refer to the admission section (http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission) of this catalog for Graduate School admission requirements.

Program Requirements (60 hours)

The program consists of 60 hours of graduate coursework. The program includes the following core coursework:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDLD 702</td>
<td>Educational Leadership Doctoral Program Orientation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDLD 710</td>
<td>Leadership Theories and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDLD 720</td>
<td>Individual and Group Issues in Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EDFN 726</td>
<td>Change Theory and Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDLD 730</td>
<td>Leading the Organization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDLD 712</td>
<td>Research Methods and Design for Educational Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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EDLD 722  Measurement and Survey Methods for Educational Leaders  3

EDLD 732  Program Evaluation for Educational Leaders 2  3

or EDFN 603  Qualitative Research in Education
or EDFN 703  Field Methods for Qualitative Research
or EDFN 740  Intermediate Statistics and Design
or EDFN 744  Seminar in Advanced Research Methods

EDLD 798  Educational Leadership Doctoral Program Internship  3-6

EDLD 799  Dissertation Research 3  9-12

Personalized Learning Electives

With program director or advisor approval, select courses to support intellectual and professional development and career goals  21-27

BA 751  Strategic Leadership (or similar)
BA 752  Leading Innovation, Creativity and Change (or similar)

Total Hours  60

1 Taken during the first semester after admission to the program.
2 Students choosing to complete a qualitative dissertation must have EDFN 603 or course equivalent on their Program of Study. Other research course options allow for in-depth statistical preparation aligned with students’ dissertation methodology.
3 Students are encouraged to take EDLD 797 to prepare for their dissertation experience.

Program Completion

To complete the program, students must propose, complete, and successfully defend a dissertation.