

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

Educational Leadership

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Major Course Requirements

EDU710 (3.0 credit hours)

Ethical and Legal Issues in Education/Leadership

This course is an intensive study focused on legal and ethical perspectives in education. Students will practice thinking logically, critically, conceptually, and analytically about legal and ethical issues affecting the field of education. Topics include liability, due process, search and seizure, employment law, discrimination, expression of controversial views, legal and ethical issues in school financing, NCLB, accreditation and regulatory issues, federal and state laws, FERPA, student rights, ADA, and legal aspects of technology. Ethical theories of problem-solving and resolution strategies, focusing on anticipating legal issues before they arise and utilizing methods and tools to prevent and resolve legal problems will be practiced.

EDU712 (3.0 credit hours)

Policy, Politics, and Community Relations

This course is an in depth an analysis of educational politics and policy and the role of community relations in school leadership. Emphasis is placed on theoretical and conceptual analysis of political behavior, legislation and political and policy trends affecting schools today. Educational stakeholders, their roles and impact on schools, and management of community relations are evaluated and assessed with a special emphasis on ethical decision-making.

EDU720 (3.0 credit hours)

Designing Training and Performance Solutions

Educational managers are more effective if they possess a repertoire of training and performance tools with which to manage teachers, staff, and students. This course is designed to give educational leaders the theoretical and practical skills to design training and performance solutions, integrating instructional design techniques common in education today. Course topics include learning theories, instructional and performance design models, assessment and evaluation techniques, and training technology. Students design and implement an intervention by conducting a needs assessment, diagnosing the results, developing a solution for the performance gap, and continuously evaluating and assessing the intervention.

EDU721 (3.0 credit hours)

Leading Innovation Technology

This course is designed to provide educators the leadership and management decision-making skills for applications and advancements of technology in education. Learning

theory forms the basis for using technology in the classroom and will be applied to assessing technological resources and innovation. Course topics include: instructional delivery using multimedia, matching technologies to outcomes, cost and funding of technology, and trends in instructional technology. Risks and threats with the wide availability of media (the internet, iPods, cell phones, and others) to classroom security and ethical student behavior are assessed and evaluated.

EDU722 (3.0 credit hours)

Management of Distance Education

This course gives educational leaders the skills and competencies to administer, manage, and lead distance education programs. Topics include managing existing programs, design and implementation of distance education programs, marketing distance education programs, and improving existing programs for efficient and effective delivery. From a research perspective students appraise the role of the course room facilitator, evaluating course room instruction, and assessing course room security and achievement of learning outcomes. Issues and policies related to distance education ethics, security, and acceptance are addressed.

EDU730 (3.0 credit hours)

Funding of Educational Institutions

This course examines public and private funding for educational institutions. Course topics include regulatory issues relating to funding, the role of politics in education funding, present and future funding patterns and school finance reform.

EDU740 (3.0 credit hours)

Curriculum Design

This course is an advanced study into the theory and application of curriculum design. Students will evaluate curriculum theory and trends reflectively to develop a personal curriculum and curriculum development philosophy. Using a systematic approach, students will design a curriculum including course preparation material, instructional techniques, use of technology, forms of evaluation, and assessment of curricula. Peer review and coaching will encourage critical thinking, analysis, and collaboration in the curriculum design process.

EDU741 (3.0 credit hours)

Differentiated Instruction

This course provides the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare for organizing classrooms for differentiated instruction. It covers research-based principles of effective planning and design as well as pre-assessment, instructional strategies, management skills, and grading. The compilation of knowledge applied in this course give the educational leader the framework necessary to assess and evaluate differentiated instruction in schools.

EDU742 (3.0 credit hours)

Classroom Management

This course is an in-depth analysis of the dynamic, cultural and social interactions within the classroom setting. Students will evaluate the various theories of group dynamics, communication, motivation, and the behavioral and cognitive approaches to learning through classroom interactions. Students will research and develop classroom assessment techniques to measure classroom performances. Using a theoretical foundation, students will engage in research that analyzes the various skills, assessments, methods, and training required to build both a positive classroom learning environment and a sustainable learning community. This research will address the most recent trends in classroom-based issues regarding teaching and administrative preparation for future classroom challenges.

EDL750 (3.0 credit hours)

Leadership: Theory and Management

Educational leaders must demonstrate the ability to practically apply leadership theory in management of educational institutions at all levels. This course is an in depth study of the theoretical and conceptual basis of educational leadership, its application to management and the roles and responsibilities of school leaders. Topics include contemporary theorists, self-reflection and self-analysis of personal strengths and weaknesses as a school leader, organizational change, motivation theory, decision-making strategies, ethics, and communication of organizational vision.

EDL751 (3.0 credit hours)

Leadership: Assessment and Program Evaluation

Assessment is becoming increasingly important in education today at all levels. Educational leaders must be prepared to design and conduct program evaluation and critically assess input from other sources. Assessment of student learning outcomes, classroom assessment techniques, assessment of teaching effectiveness, educational program evaluation, and evaluation of staff development are all important components of an educational leader's tool box. This course provides the student with the expertise necessary to effectively, ethically, and efficiently conduct educational evaluations and to present and communicate assessment and evaluation results to diverse stakeholder groups.

EDL752 (3.0 credit hours)

Leadership: Reform and Innovation

Educational leaders must be forward looking to build successful schools. They must also possess the critical review skills required to initiate and lead reform. This course focuses on change, behavior, leadership theories and futuring tools to gain a practical understanding of educational change processes and their associated impacts on educational practice. Critical thinking, scholarly inquiry, and research are integrated to develop theoretically grounded reform and innovation initiatives to meet current and future needs.

EDL753 (3.0 credit hours)

Leadership: Human Resources and Professional Development

School leaders today work toward developing professional learning communities in which students develop their academic potential. The primary resource necessary for successful acquisition of students' academic potential is the people who work in the institution. The successful school leader must recruit, orient, motivate, develop, evaluate, and sometimes terminate the human resources within the institution. This course is a research and application based evaluation of the planning and execution of human resource theory. Topics include ethical decision making, human resource law, diversity recruiting and retention, recruitment, selection, credentialing, and terminating employees. Professional and staff development best practices, trends, and issues are also applied.

EDR700 (3.0 credit hours)

Quantitative Research I

Quantitative Research I is a course in applied statistics introducing doctoral students to descriptive and inferential statistics for doctoral level research. Application of statistical tools and methods will be emphasized. Statistical tools covered will be measures of central tendency and variability, probability, randomization, normal distribution, t-distribution, F-distribution, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and correlation. Application to real-life and research based paradigms is made so students can become adept at interpreting empirical findings and develop the skills necessary to complete original research.

EDR800 (3.0 credit hours)

Quantitative Research II

Quantitative Research II prepares students to conduct quantitative research in the field of education. Students conduct critical literature review, evaluate research design and design research methodology using quantitative methods of data collection and analysis appropriate for research in education. Course topics include design of experimental and quasi-experimental research studies, survey design, and methods of analysis appropriate to these studies, including analyzing variance and multiple linear regression. Emphasis is placed on applying computer based data analysis, statistical reasoning, understanding and use of quantitative research methods, ethical research practices, and practice in communicating research methods through scholarly interpretation, analysis, and writing.

EDR810 (3.0 credit hours)

Qualitative Research

Qualitative research helps us understand meaning when existing theory fails to explain a phenomenon. This course is designed to give the qualitative researcher the theory, method, and skill to apply a balanced approach to research in the field of education. Course topics include the purpose and methods of various qualitative traditions as well

as interviewing techniques, field observation, content analysis, historical analysis, focus groups, and questionnaire design. Qualitative data collection and analysis techniques are applied to research questions with a focus on understanding phenomenon in education not resolved by other research methodologies. Educational decision-making and research methodologies for expanding the body of knowledge are developed and applied.

EDR811 (3.0 credit hours)

Mixed Methods

This course provides students with an understanding of mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) approaches to research studies. Appropriate strategies for incorporating both quantitative and qualitative paradigms will be explored. Specific issues, challenges, and considerations encountered in using mixed methodologies will be addressed in detail. The conflict between positivism and constructivism will be investigated, as will various examples of mixed model designs applicable to educational leadership. While there are pragmatic advantages to combining qualitative and quantitative methods, it is important to know that there are philosophical debates about combining these distinct approaches. Students need to understand the paradigmatic backgrounds of each approach and how to deal with these paradigm differences to answer real-world research questions.

EDR820 (3.0 credit hours)

Advanced Research: Pre-Proposal and Literature Review

This course is designed for doctoral researchers to formulate of a problem statement, research question, and determine the most effective research methodology to use for their dissertation. The impact of the study on the profession and addition to the body of knowledge will be developed and defended. Students will also critically review and provide feedback to other doctoral researchers. Students will critically analyze the literature surrounding the research question and write a scholarly review of the research using best practices in APA documentation style. By the end of the course students will have completed the pre-proposal and submitted it to the committee for approval.

EDR901 (2.0 credit hours)

Dissertation

This course is designed for the doctoral researcher to complete the first three chapters of the dissertation and defend the proposal. Doctoral students will gain skills and demonstrate expertise in the design of conceptually cogent and methodologically rigorous dissertation proposal, which must be submitted to and approved by the IRB. Researchers are provided with resources, guidance, peer and mentor support as they write their proposal and dissertation.

EDR902 (2.0 credit hours)

Dissertation

This course is designed for the doctoral researcher to conduct and analyze research approved by the committee and described in the proposal. Doctoral students will demonstrate expertise conducting conceptually cogent and methodologically rigorous research, analyzing findings, making recommendations, and generating appropriate conclusions, finalizing the dissertation. Dissertations are submitted to the researcher's committee for approval. After approval is received, with the guidance of the mentor, doctoral candidates complete their formal defense of the dissertation then prepare and submit the dissertation to the University for approval. Approved dissertations are prepared for publication. Researchers are provided with resources, guidance, peer and mentor support as they write their dissertation.

EDR903 (2.0 credit hours)

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