

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES & LEADERSHIP, PH.D.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Studies & Leadership educates scholars and scholar-practitioners who desire to have meaningful, lasting influence on higher education. The program is uniquely balanced between research, academic rigor, and hands-on professional experience. Students entering the program can expect to be professionally challenged through their apprenticeships and academically challenged throughout the course sequence. The program is small and built on the idea that a great doctoral education stems from great mentorship. The program provides support, camaraderie, and debate as students come together from across the nation, representing a great diversity of regional and cultural world views.

Higher Education is a sophisticated enterprise, and the future scholars and leaders of higher education must be able to integrate research methodologies, complex critical thinking, and administrative responsibilities to foster meaningful change. Therefore, the Ph.D. in Higher Education Studies & Leadership has extensive learning outcomes woven throughout the curriculum. The degree requires 72 semester hours of graduate work arranged in eight blocks of courses. The degree plan may exceed 72 hours if students choose to complete additional courses.

Admission

Admission to the Ph.D. program in Higher Education Studies & Leadership is selective. Admission is based upon student vocational goals as well as a variety of background, skill sets/aptitudes, and dispositional factors that indicate potential success in the program. A hallmark of this program is the integration of Christian faith and learning, and students are expected to model this outcome.

All applicants must submit scores from the General Test of the GRE taken within the last five years, official transcripts of baccalaureate and master's degrees from regionally accredited institutions, a curriculum vita/resume, a professional goals statement, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample.

Degree Plan

Block I: Higher Education Core (15 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
EDL 5379	Foundations & History of Higher Education Leadership	3
EDL 6305	Ethics and Values in Educational Leadership	3
EDL 6302	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3
EDC 6345	Christian Faith and Education	3
EDL 5375	Sociology of Higher Education	3
Total Hours		15

Block II: Studies and Leadership in Higher Education (21 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
EDL 5372	Culture and Organization of Higher Education	3
EDL 5392	Higher Education & the Law	3
EDL 5399	Faith-Based Higher Education	3

EDL 6385	Higher Education--Business and Finance	3
EDL 6363	Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership	3
EDL 6306	Student Success in Higher Education	3
EDL 6304	Seminar: Politics, Policy and Governance of Education	3

Total Hours 21

Block III: Research and Statistics (15 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
EDL 5300	Research Applications in Educational Leadership (required only for students who have not already taken a similar course)	3
EDP 5334	Statistical Methods (If the student has already taken a master's level statistics course, they will be required to take either EDP 6360 Experimental Design I or EDP 6362 Applied Multiple Regression/Correlation Analysis in Education.)	3
EDL 5336	Qualitative Research in Higher Education (required)	3
EDL 6335	Research Practicum in Education (required)	3

In addition to the above required R&S courses, students will choose 3 to 6 hours (depending on whether the student needs to take EDP 5334) from the following (in consultation with his or her advisor). The courses chosen should assist with the publication of the dissertation. In addition, students can use their cognate or elective hours to take additional research courses:

EDP 5340	Measurement and Evaluation
EDP 6360	Experimental Design I
EDP 6361	Experimental Design II
EDP 6362	Applied Multiple Regression/Correlation Analysis in Education
EDP 6337	Psychometric Theory and Test Construction
EDL 6370	Seminar in American Educational Thought
EDC 6339	Ethnographic Research Methods in Education

Total Hours 15

Block IV: Electives/Cognate (9 Hours)

Students may take nine hours of their choice from within the department or across the university. We particularly encourage taking courses outside the School of Education that may expose students to other fields within the university. For instance, students may wish to take additional courses in management from the business school, particular methods courses from a particular discipline (e.g. history or sociology), or courses about education found in other disciplines (e.g., sociology of education, philosophy of education).

Block V: Professional Independent Study or Internship (3 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Select one of the following:		3
EDL 6V64	Internship in Educational Leadership	
EDL 5V95	Special Problems in Education	

EDL 6V95	Special Problems in Educational Leadership
Total Hours	
3	

Block VI: Comprehensive Exam (2 Hours)

- EDL 6V95 Special Problems in Educational Leadership

Block VII: Dissertation (7 Hours)

- EDL 6V99 Dissertation

Total Number of Hours in the Program: 72 hours (65 hours of course work + 7 dissertation hours). The degree plan may be modified during advisement on an individual basis to meet each student’s needs.