

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Distinguishing Characteristics of the PhD and EdD Degrees

(Revised July, 2012)

EdD	PhD
Degree Objectives	
Preparation of professional leaders competent in identifying and solving complex problems in education. Emphasis is on developing effective, thoughtful, and reflective practitioners.	Preparation of professional researchers, scholars, or scholar practitioners. Develops competence in conducting scholarship and research that focuses on contributing new knowledge.
Intended Professional Career	
Managerial or administrative leadership in educational institutions or related organizations (e.g., school or university administrator, staff developer/trainer, or human resources in educational settings, student services in PK-12 or Higher Education, or central office personnel).	Scholarly practice, research, publication, and teaching at university, college, institute, or educational agency.
Knowledge Base	
Develops knowledge for practice that is informed by theory and empirical research. Content themes are integrated with practice emphasizing application in the work setting.	Fosters theoretical and conceptual knowledge. Content is investigative in nature with an emphasis on understanding the relationships to and implications for practice.
Research Methods	
Develops an overview and understanding of research including data collection and analysis skills for educational leaders' to use in their practice, program/process evaluation, and informing stakeholders of the status of the educational organization.	Courses develop an understanding of educational inquiry as well as qualitative and quantitative research. Focus is on developing skills and competencies in data collection, analysis, synthesis, and writing, in order to conduct high quality independent research.
Internship	
There is not an internship within the EdD. Rather, students are expected to be working as a leader. The workplace serves as their laboratory of practice.	Students are strongly encouraged to complete a research internship.
Comprehensives	
Based on knowledge and practice in written and oral experiences. Provides evidence of ability to define problems of practice and improve practice based on theory and research.	Evaluate an understanding of the theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the field. Evaluates competence in conducting research to acquire new knowledge.
Dissertation	
Dissertation –in-Practice: Well-designed applied research with substantial value for informing educational practice. Reflects the theory and/or knowledge for addressing decision-oriented problems in applied settings.	Original research illustrating a mastery of concepts and theories, with the clear goal of informing knowledge within the field.