

# EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, PH.D.

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The purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree programs is to prepare students for careers in the professoriate or to pursue work as a policy analyst, researcher, consultant, or school practitioner. The Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership requires extensive contact with and immersion in the university culture.

The program requires 15 hours of research course work, extensive interaction with faculty on research projects and an expectation to present at research conferences or publish in research outlets.

Both the doctoral programs emphasize the development of theoretical thinking and knowledge development in the field of educational leadership. Distinctions between the Ph.D. and Ed.D. degrees should be noted by prospective applicants. Toward this end, students who apply to the Ph.D. degree should provide a written rationale as to why they wish to pursue this degree, how its focus and purposes are consistent with their career goals, and how they plan to meet the on-campus residency requirement.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

## Admission Requirements

Doctoral students are admitted annually. Each applicant should submit a complete application for admission before the deadline of **April 1** for fall admission. (Applications past the deadline will be considered if space allows or due to exceptional circumstances).

Potential applicants should be aware that admission to the UA doctoral programs is a competitive process and that submitting an application does not guarantee admission. Minimum entrance requirements include

- Master's Degree – An earned master's degree from an accredited institution
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- The GRE General Test is required for entrance into the PhD program. Test scores at or above the 50th percentile on the Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning subscales of the GRE are needed. Scores must be less than 5 years old from the applicant's admission deadline.

Application materials also include official transcripts, three letters of recommendation, a departmental application, vita or résumé, writing sample, and statement of purpose.

Admission forms and requirements, specific program parameters, departmental policies, and contact information for each doctoral degree are available on the departmental website.

## Degree Requirements

A minimum of 75 semester credit hours beyond the Master's degree is required for completion of the PhD program. These hours are distributed as follows:

- Students must successfully complete the 15-hour AEL Core plus 9 additional hours of AEL electives.
- A 12-hour set of Education Foundation courses is also required. Students may take any graduate level BEF or BEP course and/or any non-research methods courses outside of the AEL Program to fulfill this requirement.
- Students must also complete 15 semester hours of Educational Research (BER) and enroll in a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation AEL 699 Dissertation Research.