

EDUCATION: EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP (EDD)

Program Description

Division of Education Faculty (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/faculty-staff?d=Education>)

Division of Education Doctoral Programs Website (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/doctoral-programs>)

The Doctor of Education (EdD) program (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/doctoral-programs/doctor-of-education-edd>) is a post-master's interdepartmental degree offered by the Division of Education. This program follows a low-residency model, with courses being offered online during the regular academic year and an on-campus component in the summer.

The program serves school practitioners who are primarily interested in preparing for a variety of leadership positions in educational systems, including superintendent, district office, and other areas.

The program also serves students interested in other related careers in education, including nonprofit and higher-education administration, and other education-related professions. It can be tailored to meet varied professional needs and interests. This degree is for active professionals interested in leadership positions in all fields and levels of education.

Using the educational benefits of collaborative and cooperative learning combined with continued professional association, this program uses a cohort approach for core doctoral classes. Once admitted to the program, you proceed through these cohort courses as part of a group, following a defined schedule and sequence.

Because this is an interdepartmental degree, you will select courses and learning experiences — with the assistance of the director of doctoral programs — from a variety of areas and opportunities in the Division of Education, or from other schools within Seattle Pacific University (subject to approval by the Division of Education Doctoral Committee).

The specialization/elective component provides students with the opportunity to develop an area of expertise appropriate to professional and academic goals. You may choose from the following areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Digital Educational Leadership, Executive Leadership, or Literacy. As an alternative, you may elect to “self-design” a specialization by partnering with your advisor to select elective coursework that aligns with your goals.

Earning Washington state certification as a superintendent (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/certification-programs/superintendent>), principal (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/certification-programs/principal>), or program administrator (<https://spu.edu/academics/college-humanities-education-arts/graduate-programs/certification-programs/program-administrator>) is possible as an area of specialization while working on the EdD degree. It is also possible to pursue a MEd in Digital Education Leadership or a Digital Educator Certificate while concurrently working on the EdD degree.

Leadership Colloquium and Comprehensive Exams

After approximately one year of coursework, or 24 credits, you may register for EDU 7990 Leadership Colloquium. This requires you to write a scholarly paper and present the paper in a formal setting to the educational community.

Graduate faculty of the Division of Education conduct an evaluation of the scholarship and Colloquium. The Leadership Colloquium must be taken before the comprehensive exams.

Upon completion of all courses, you must pass two written comprehensive examinations. These examinations will cover the foundations and research components of the core course requirements. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination advances you to doctoral candidacy.

The Dissertation

Under the direction of a faculty dissertation advisor and committee, you will complete a dissertation project during the final phase of the degree program. The dissertation is designed to integrate theories and tools learned throughout the program and should demonstrate your mastery of concepts and methods. As a final demonstration of scholarly competence, you will prepare a written dissertation report and conduct an oral presentation/defense.

The dissertation requirement may be fulfilled by a study of an educational problem such as curriculum evaluation, development and evaluation of administrative models, field testing of a diagnostic tool or curricular material, or development and evaluation of educator training models. It may also take the traditional form of a research study. You are encouraged to take additional research courses linked to specific dissertation methods and design.

You will choose problems of practice originating from external practitioners and policymakers, generated through the suggestion and review of faculty members. External practitioners may include school districts, educational service districts (ESDs), universities, state agencies, and research groups.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following items to the Graduate Admissions (<http://www.spu.edu/prospects/grad/>):

- Online application (<http://admissions.spu.edu/apply/>) and \$50 application processing fee.
- Official transcripts documenting excellent undergraduate and graduate GPAs from an accredited institution where an academic degree was conferred. Include post-master's degree graduate coursework.
- If your degree is not from a U.S. college or university, please arrange for your transcript to be evaluated by a NACES member (<http://www.naces.org/>)-recognized credential service. Acceptable credential services include, but are not limited to, World Education Services (<http://www.wes.org/>) (WES) and Foundation for International Services (<http://www.fis-web.com/>) (FIS).
- Personal statement (no more than 500 words) expressing your professional plans, goals, and focus of study, as well as a rationale for pursuing an EdD.

- Four recent letters of recommendation, including two academic and two professional recommendations.
- Résumé documenting a minimum of three years of successful experience at the P–12 level or other similar educational setting.

Following the submission of all of these items, your file will be reviewed by the core graduate faculty. You will be contacted regarding the status of your application, and to schedule an interview, within approximately two weeks.

All correspondence regarding the interview process will be carried out by email using the address you provide in the application. Please set your email filters accordingly.

Grade Point Average

A minimum 3.2 overall GPA is required for graduation.

Degree Completion

Students must complete all requirements for the doctoral degree within five years from the quarter the first post-admission course was taken. Students needing more than five years to complete the degree must file a time-extension petition with the director of doctoral programs.

Contact

If you have questions about graduate education or certification programs:

- Email: gradadmissions@spu.edu
- Phone: 206-281-2091

Prerequisite Coursework

Depending on your educational background, the following prerequisites may be required for the doctoral degree:

Code	Title	Credits
EDU 6524	Curriculum Design	3
EDU 6526	Survey of Instructional Strategies	3
EDU 6613	Standards-based Assessment	3
EDU 6655	Human Development and Principles of Learning	3
EDU 6975	Interpreting and Applying Educational Research I	3
EDU 6976	Interpreting and Applying Educational Research II	3
EDU 7300	Introduction to Educational Research and Statistics	3

Education: Executive Leadership (EdD)

90 Credits Minimum

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations and Instructional Leadership		
EDU 6085	Moral and Theological Issues in Education	3
EDU 6120	American Education: Past and Present	3
EDU 7101	Instructional Theory	3
EDU 7102	Curriculum Theory	3
EDU 7106	Trends and Research in Global Education ¹	3
EDU 7108	Access and Equity in Education	3
EDU 7120	Educational Organizations and Systems	3
EDU 7910	Seminar in Educational Values	3
EDU 7990	Leadership Colloquium	3

Section Credits Required 27

Inquiry and Dissertation

EDU 7107	Program Evaluation	3
EDU 7972	Quantitative Research Design I: Linear Models and Regression Analyses	3
EDU 7973	Quantitative Research Design II: Univariate, Multivariate Analyses & Nonparametric Models	3
EDU 7974	Qualitative Research Design	3
EDU 7991	Dissertation Orientation	1
EDU 7995	Doctoral Dissertation ²	1

Section Credits Required 30

Executive Leadership Core

EDAD 7581	Systems Leadership	3
EDAD 7582	Education Law and Policy Studies	3
EDAD 7584	Resource Management	3
EDAD 7586	Interpersonal Relations	3
EDAD 7588	Improving Student Learning	3
EDAD 7589	Policy, Governance and Ethics	3
EDAD 7890	Executive Leadership Field Experience	1-9

Section Credits Required 24

Electives

Executive Leadership Electives (advisor approved)	9
Minimum Credits Required	90

¹ If taken twice, can apply 3 credits to electives.
² Repeat to reach 17 credits.

Additional Requirements and Information

- Two Comprehensive Exams
- Dissertation Defense