

Guide to the Writing Sample

Applicants to the EdD Program

How long is the Writing Sample?

- Between 15-20 pages / 3,800-5,000 words – content (excluding references)
- Double spaced
- These limits are firm

May I submit a work on which I was a contributing author?

- You must be the sole author of any work you submit.

Does the Writing Sample need citations?

- Yes, the writing sample must be cited correctly throughout the paper.

How recent does the sample need to be?

- There is no limit on when writing samples were written. You are welcome to use work you have submitted in other programs, as long as they adhere to all requirements.

Does the writing sample need to be a work that I have published?

- No. The writing sample may be published or unpublished work.

Does the writing sample need to be an essay?

- Not necessarily, but it must use correct citation format.
- The Writing Sample should be based on an argument, and demonstrate your ability to present and defend a position, using evidence.
- The Writing Sample must follow the conventions of good writing – organization, structure, paragraphs, sentences, grammar, punctuation, etc.

Does the writing sample need to relate specifically to Educational Leadership?

- The Admissions Committee typically prefers that writing samples be related to Educational Leadership. However, this is not necessarily required. If you are feeling unsure of the suitability of your Writing Sample, please use this as an opportunity to produce original work that is related to the field of Educational Leadership.

If I am applying to the PhD in Education Studies, do these same guidelines apply?

- No, the PhD in Education Studies and the EdD programs are unique. If you have questions about the PhD program, please contact the CPELS Graduate Affairs Assistant for the PhD program cpels.graded@uwo.ca

I still have questions. Who do I contact?

- Please feel welcome to contact us! See this page for details:
https://www.education.uwo.ca/graduate-education/info_meeting.html