DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Program Information

Western Education
The Online EdD Program at Western

The Doctor of Education (EdD) is an innovative, current, and practitioner-oriented graduate-level professional program, designed to facilitate future and current professionals to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to identify and understand problems of practice and succeed in educational and other professional positions. The EdD is suited for those whose primary career goal is leadership and practice in an educational system or other education-related area of an institution or organization.

Inquiry and Research

Students will develop an understanding of how inquiry tools are used in educational research, learn to critique and design research studies, and develop research skills used in problem analysis. Students will develop knowledge about areas related to the student’s specific work setting and research within real-world contexts.

Emphasis on Framing

A frame is a lens through which individuals perceive, interpret, and respond to a particular situation. Critical thinking requires proficiency in the art of framing and reframing a situation or process in order to challenge assumptions and solve problems of practice. Students will approach problem analysis through multiple “frames” in their courses.

Inductive Teaching Methods

Instructors will use inductive and engaging teaching methods, including inquiry-based learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and case-based learning. Engagement, collaboration, and peer-to-peer learning are promoted in the environment of the online courses.

Laboratories of Practice

Students will participate in groups who share an interest in particular problems of practice. Laboratories of practice are semi-structured experiences of messy, real-world practice that serve as sources of active inquiry, reflection, and learning. It is through the process of sharing information and experience that group members learn from each other and develop themselves personally and professionally.

Meet the Directors

Pam Bishop
We know from credible research that school leaders who have sound values and astutely use evidence to inform their practice are highly successful at setting directions, supporting teachers and creating safe and welcoming schools for children. In the end, we hope the biggest beneficiaries of this program will be children and communities.

Katina Pollock
The Doctor of Education will provide graduate students with contemporary evidence about school leadership for the 21st century. In turn, graduates with this degree will have a raft of opportunities to probe, problem-solve, and critique complex leadership and educational issues facing schools today.
Course Delivery

As a three-year program, the EdD provides for the in-depth study of leadership in education with a focus on creating an integrated approach to leadership development. Degree objectives emphasize the preparation of thoughtful, reflective, and collaborative professional leaders, K-12 teachers, and other educators who identify and solve complex problems in education. The primary goal of the program is to advance the habits of mind, hand, and heart in teachers and leaders who strive to ensure excellence in educational practice.

This program is fully online, with some opportunities for synchronous online as well as face-to-face learning. Students may continue to fulfill full time work and family commitments while enrolled in this program.

Course Titles

1. Theoretical Foundations of Inquiry
2. Aims of Education Leadership
3. Leading for Learning
4. Organizing for Learning
5. Leadership Abilities in Education
6. Approaches to Professional Problems in Education Leadership
7. Essential Contexts of Leadership, Part I
8. Essential Contexts of Leadership, Part II
9. Identifying, Framing, and Designing Dissertation Problems
10. Methodologies and their Fit with Professional Problems

Program and Dissertation Details

In years 1 and 2, students will complete 8 courses over 2 years. Courses run in the Fall and Winter (12 weeks each) as well as in the Intersession and Summer semesters (8 weeks each).

At the end of year 2, students will submit a comprehensive portfolio, which will contain an appendix of prior course essays, a reflective self-analysis, and a dissertation proposal.

In year 3, students will complete and submit for examination a well-designed applied research thesis of value for informing educational practice. The evaluation committee will include at least one practicing professional in an area of relevance to the candidate’s program. During this final year, students will participate in 2 seminar-style communities of practice for research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Complete 4 half courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Complete 4 half courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 (end of July)</td>
<td>Submit Qualifying Exam Portfolio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Complete 2 half courses (dissertation seminars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 (end of May)</td>
<td>Submit Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The dissertation will present the results of the candidate’s independent investigation in a manner that contributes both to professional knowledge in education and to the improvement of professional practice.
Our Impact

- Quality professional learning in educational leadership, research, teaching, and support
- Flexible, engaging online learning opportunities
- Integration of theory and research into practice
- Completion in 3 years, taking 1 course at a time

Your Advancement

- Gain status as a scholar of the profession
- Solve local problems of practice
- Develop professional networks
- Make a positive difference in education
- Use evidence-based research for effective decision-making

Admission

Admissions Criteria

For admission to the EdD program, students must possess a Master's degree in Educational Leadership or allied degree. Applicants must also have a GPA of 3.5.

Application Information and Deadline

Submit a letter of intent, 3 letters of recommendation (from academic and/or professional supervisors, or equivalent), transcripts, a writing sample and a current résumé.

Applications open in the fall for a program start in the following September.

There is no deadline for first consideration. Spaces are limited for this competitive program. Applicants are encouraged to submit early.

Application Process

Contact the Graduate Programs office for details about application information, program progression, qualifying portfolio, and dissertation.

www.edu.uwo.ca/graduate-education/index.html