Doctor of Education

Approx. program length: 3 years, 2 months
Credits: 54
Cost per credit: $810
Format: Online

Distinguish yourself as a leader in education

Are you looking to elevate or support your organization or educational institution using practical, research-based tools? Our Doctor of Education prepares you to use analytical, critical, and innovative thinking to improve performance and solve complex problems in education. This program does not lead to any educational licensure or certification.

Specialize your degree

To specialize your educational focus, you’re encouraged to take one of these four elective tracks:

Educational Leadership: Gain in-depth understanding of academic structure, school financing, policy-making and faculty — all while emerging as a leader who values diversity and academic integrity.

Curriculum and Instruction: Influence curriculum development and policy, and evaluate instructional and assessment methods to improve learning outcomes.

Educational Technology: Implement technologies that revolutionize the way students learn and integrate technology into curriculum.

Higher Education Administration: Gain a top-level view of the complex challenges facing educational communities — and gain the skills to address them through research, planning, fiscal oversight and outcomes assessment.

Distinctive learning model

Our unique Scholar-Practitioner-LeaderSM model separates us from other doctoral programs. It fits into every aspect of your doctoral studies, preparing you with the advantages of:

• Scholarship – you’ll understand how to design research and use its data to solve root problems
• Practitioners – you’ll learn how to apply your skills to solve problems in your organization or community
• Leadership – you’ll develop leadership skills that help you change organizations and communities

Better doctoral experience

In 20 years of delivering doctoral education, we’ve come to realize that the doctoral journey can be very focused and personal, yet also lonely. That’s why we’ve restructured our programs to create a more supportive, motivating environment for doctoral students.

Here’s how it works:

• You’ll move through courses with the camaraderie and support of a cohort of students.
• You’ll have dedicated faculty to explain the doctoral journey and provide feedback as you go.
• You’ll research, write and defend your dissertation in manageable chunks throughout your program.

What sets us apart?

When you choose our Doctor of Education, you can:

Spread your dissertation out
You’ll research, write and defend your dissertation in manageable chunks throughout your program rather

Partner with dedicated doctoral faculty

Work with a cohort of students
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You'll work with the same Dissertation Chair and University Research Methodologist (URM) throughout your program, allowing for critical feedback along the way.

You'll enjoy the camaraderie and community of being in a student cohort. Your cohort will move through the program together with the same Chair and URM. 

than saving it — and stressing about it — until the end.
Projected job growth:

10%

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job opportunities

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth for postsecondary education administrators is projected to be 10 percent between 2016 and 2026. A Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership can help prepare you to be a:

- School administrator
- Academic affairs dean
- Academic affairs vice president
- Academic dean
- College president, dean
- Dean of students
- Provost

Networking opportunities

Access powerful networking tools through our PhoenixLink™ career services platform. Take advantage of personal career coaching. Search and apply for jobs, or make your résumé visible to employers. And connect with employers and alumni through career fairs and mixers or with peers through the school's Facebook® group for doctoral students. It's all about connections. And we help you make them.

Learning outcomes

Along with the knowledge and skills related to the University Learning Goals, graduates should gain program-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Each college or school creates a set of Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) to describe the knowledge, skills or attitudes students will possess upon completion of the program of study. By the time you complete your Doctor of Education, you should be able to perform these learning outcomes.

Institutional accreditation

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlccommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation is your assurance that the University meets quality standards.
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Course length: 8 weeks  
Total credits required: 54  
Max. number of transfer credits: 27

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 54 credits to complete this program. Required courses may vary based on previous education or transferable credits.

Dissertation

You'll begin the dissertation process in your third course and follow a schedule of milestones throughout your program. This makes your dissertation doable in smaller segments and helps identify any research methodology challenges early, so there are no surprises or delays at the end.

Symposium

While some doctoral programs require on-campus residency, we've shifted to an 8-week online Symposium. In the required course you'll:

• Receive a detailed overview of each milestone in the doctoral journey
• Understand what the University expects from doctoral students
• Understand what doctoral students can expect from the University

Doctoral students may also enroll in an optional, zero-credit, zero-tuition/fee one-weekend seminar in Phoenix, Ariz. The seminar provides an opportunity for personal interaction with faculty and peers as well as instruction around the framework of your dissertation.

Transfer credits

Earn your degree faster. If you've earned a master’s degree from an accredited university, you may be eligible to receive up to six doctoral-level credits toward your doctoral degree. Current doctoral students from an accredited university or college may be eligible to receive up to 30 credits based on previous doctoral coursework.

Core courses

• EDD724: Instructional Leadership
• CUR732: Program Evaluation
• DOC741B: Doctoral Dissertation
• HEA732: Curriculum Development, Assessment, And Program Evaluation
• DOC741A: Doctoral Dissertation
• EDT711: Educational Technology Research
• EDT723: Instructional Media And Design Techniques
• EDD723: Ethics And Values In Learning Organizations
• EDD733: Evaluation And Assessment Methods
• DOC741: Doctoral Dissertation
• EDD711: Social Contexts And Contemporary Issues
• EDD700: Introduction To Education Administration In Doctoral Study
• EDD712: Leadership In Contemporary Organization
• HEA712: Higher Education Law, Policy And The Regulatory Environment
• CUR713: Curriculum, Developmental, And Learning Theories
• DOC888: Dissertation Continuing Enrollment II
• EDT732: Integrating Technology And Curriculum
• REST710: Statistical Research Methods And Design I
• DOC742: Doctoral Project IV
• EDD722: The Legal Context Of Education
Doctor of Education

- LDR711A: Leadership Theory And Practice
- EDD714: Comparative Models Of Educational Environments
- HEA711: History And Philosophy Of Higher Education
- DOC715: Doctoral Seminar I
- EDT733: Technology Leadership
- DOC723: Doctoral Seminar II
- DOC714S: Symposium I
- CUR721: Curriculum Design
- RES709: Research Conceptualization And Design
- DOC742B: Doctoral Project IV
- DOC742A: Doctoral Project IV
- RES724: Qualitative Methods And Design
- CUR722: Instructional Models
- DOC719S: Symposium II
- DOC988: Project Continuing Enrollment II
- HEA713: Higher Education Economics, Finance And Strategic Planning
- HEA722: Academic And Student Affairs Administration
- HEA731: Student Development, Adult Education, And Student Diversity
- EDD731: The Economics Of Education