4310 Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) General Information

The College of Education currently offers a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership.

Admission

Applicants to the Professional Doctorate in Education program must complete and submit the online application for graduate study, pay the nonrefundable application fee of $50.00, and send in all required application materials.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs) and graduate research assistantships (GRAs) are available to selected doctoral students who demonstrate outstanding academic skills and expertise. Assistantships are made available through the student’s department. The number of GTA and GRA positions available depends on current class loads and research needs.

Doctoral Advisory Committee

Upon admission to a cohort, the student is assigned a major adviser. An additional faculty member will become a member of the student’s Doctoral Advisory Committee. Prior to the student’s defense of his or her dissertation, he or she must secure a minimum of one additional member of his or her Doctoral Advisory Committee. This additional member may be a university faculty member or a field-based practitioner who meets the university requirements for membership on a doctoral advisory committee. The major advisor and one of the two additional faculty members must hold graduate faculty status.

1. The major advisor serves as the chair of the Doctoral Advisory Committee, is a full time member of the College of Education faculty, holds primary appointment in the College of Education, has been a faculty member at Georgia State University for at least one academic year, is a member of the Educational Leadership faculty, and holds an earned doctorate.
2. A second member of the Doctoral Advisory Committee must be a full time member of the College of Education faculty holding an earned doctorate.
3. A third member of the Doctoral Advisory Committee is an individual who can support the student’s dissertation research. The third member must also hold an earned doctorate.

After the Doctoral Advisory Committee has been established, the committee, the student, and the department chair must approve any subsequent change of membership.

Dissertation
In addition to the minimum requirements described above, each doctoral student must enroll in a minimum of nine semester hours of dissertation credit. The final grade will be assigned the term the student successfully defends the dissertation.

**Comprehensive Examination**

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate the students’ ability to use the subject content defined in the approved program of study to prepare a dissertation using the “Review and Research Format,” which is currently one of the approved formats in the Georgia State University College of Education.

The comprehensive examination includes a written examination and may also include an oral portion. The students have two opportunities to pass the comprehensive examination. Students who do not pass the examination on the second attempt are not permitted to continue in the doctoral program.

**Requirements Following Successful Completion of the Comprehensive Examination**

Enrollment for a minimum of three semester hours of credit is required during at least two out of each three term period following successful completion of the comprehensive examination until the students have graduated. This enrollment must include a minimum of nine semester hours of dissertation (9990) credit but may also include other coursework.

Enrollment for dissertation credit is permitted only after successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

**Dissertation Prospectus**

The purpose of the dissertation prospectus is to offer the Doctoral Advisory Committee evidence of the significance and rationale of the proposed study. The prospectus presents a statement of the problem or issue, describes the philosophical/theoretical knowledge base within which the dissertation topic is developed, the methodology or procedures to be employed, and the expected implications of findings or conclusions. The prospectus reflects each student’s preparedness to conduct the investigation and write the dissertation. Before beginning work on the prospectus, students should review the college’s Guide for Preparing Dissertations at education.gsu.edu/oaa/952.html.

**Presentation of the Dissertation Prospectus**

The students shall publicly present the dissertation prospectus to provide an opportunity for College of Education faculty to contribute to a scholarly critique of the proposed research. The announcement of the prospectus presentation includes the date and location of the presentation and an abstract of the prospectus. No fewer than three members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee must attend the prospectus presentation.

**Admission to Doctoral Candidacy**
When the students have completed all coursework requirements for the degree except the dissertation the students’ Doctoral Advisory Committee may recommend to the Dean of the College of Education that the students are admitted to candidacy for the Professional Doctorate of Education degree. To be recommended for candidacy, the students must additionally have successfully completed the comprehensive examination, and submitted and presented an approved dissertation prospectus.

**Dissertation and Final Dissertation Defense**

The dissertation and defense are the culminating activities in the students’ doctoral program, demonstrating high levels of scholarly and intellectual activity. The dissertation is an original contribution to knowledge in the field of study through disciplined inquiry. Conducting, writing, and defending the dissertation are done in accordance with the highest professional standards.

Enrollment for a minimum of three semester hours of credit is required during at least two out of each three-term period following successful completion of the comprehensive examination until graduation. These hours of credit must include a minimum of nine semester hours of dissertation (9990) credit but may also include other coursework. Doctoral students must be enrolled in and successfully complete three semester hours of graduate credit (typically dissertation hours) the term all degree requirements are completed. The students must be enrolled in at least three semester hours of coursework during the academic term in which they defend the dissertation.

All doctoral dissertations must comply with the format, style, and procedural instructions established by the College of Education in its Guide for Preparing Dissertations [education.gsu.edu/oaa/952.html](http://education.gsu.edu/oaa/952.html). The guide should be consulted soon after the students complete their comprehensive examination successfully.

The purpose of the oral defense of the dissertation is to enable the Doctoral Advisory Committee to judge the quality of the investigation and the students’ ability to defend their work.

When the dissertation is completed, a public announcement of the oral defense of the dissertation is disseminated via the Office of Academic Assistance and Graduate Admissions to the College of Education faculty. Additionally, the dissertation must be defended between the first day of classes and the last day of final examinations; it cannot be defended between academic terms. Students should consult the current deadlines for doctoral candidates to plan the timely announcement of the dissertation defense.

At the same time the announcement of the oral defense is submitted, two typed copies of the completed dissertation are made available for faculty review in the Office of Academic Assistance and Graduate Admissions. The announcement of the oral defense includes the date and location of the defense and an abstract of the dissertation of no more than 350 words.
The oral defense will be scheduled during regular dates of operation (i.e., between the first day of classes and the last day of final examinations each term, excluding official holidays). The oral defense must be attended by no fewer than three (3) members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee and is open to all College of Education faculty and invited guests. The committee will invite other faculty and guests present to question the candidate and to communicate to the committee their professional reactions.

Approval and acceptance of the doctoral dissertation requires a favorable vote of a majority of the Doctoral Advisory Committee.

**Electronic Master’s Theses and Doctoral Dissertations Policy**

The University requires all students who produce a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation in fulfillment of his/her degree to upload the final version of these documents to the Digital Archive@GSU as a condition of the award of the degree.

The full policy can be found online at [http://webdb.gsu.edu/policies/policy_index.cfm?view_policy=4628&system=1](http://webdb.gsu.edu/policies/policy_index.cfm?view_policy=4628&system=1).

**Electronic Submission Process:**

1. After the student passes the thesis defense and sends the Thesis Chair the final PDF version, the student uploads the thesis on the Electronic Thesis and Dissertation Submission Website. If a faculty member submits the thesis defense, then a signed form needs to be received from the student.

2. The Digital Archives main page is located at [http://digitalarchive.gsu.edu/](http://digitalarchive.gsu.edu/)

3. The graduate student upload page is located at [http://research.library.gsu.edu/ETD](http://research.library.gsu.edu/ETD)

4. The system generates an email to coordinator.

5. The coordinator logs in to library system, reviews, approves, posts, and updates the thesis.

6. The library system sends an email to the student that the work is published.

**Requirements for Degree Completion**

The purpose of requiring completion of all degree requirements within a fixed period of time is to ensure currency, continuity, and coherence in the academic experiences leading to the degree.

All degree requirements must be successfully completed within five years of the students’ term of first matriculation. Moreover, all requirements for doctoral candidacy (coursework, comprehensive examination, prospectus approval) must be completed within four years of the students’ first term of matriculation. No
coursework that was completed more than four years prior to admission to candidacy may be used to meet any doctoral degree requirement.

Enrollment for a minimum of three semester hours of credit is required during at least two out of each three term period following successful completion of the comprehensive examination until graduation. This enrollment must include a minimum of nine semester hours of dissertation (9990) credit but may also include other coursework.

The students must be enrolled in and successfully complete three semester hours of graduate credit (typically dissertation hours) during the academic term in which all degree requirements are completed.

**Graduation**

Graduate degree candidates must file a formal application for graduation with the Graduation Office at least two academic terms in advance of their expected graduation dates. Deadlines are published online Registration Guide each term. Students receiving the Ed.D. degree may have some additional cost relative to graduation and should contact the Office of Academic Assistance and Graduate Admissions for further information.

Forms for changing the date of graduation may be obtained from the Graduation Office.

**Program of Study**

The program, delivered in a three-year, closed cohort model, consists of 45 hours of course work and 9 hours of dissertation for a total of 54 hours. Candidates who hold the performance-based Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) or performance-based add-on may transfer up to six courses (18 hours) into the Ed.D. program. A transcript review is required for candidates seeking to transfer courses into the program from institutions other than Georgia State University.

**Program Degree Requirements**

**Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership**

Required Courses (54):

- **EPEL 8000** Research in Educational Leadership and Organizational Culture (3)
- **EPEL 8020** Leadership for Change in a Diverse Society (3)
- **EPEL 8330** Advanced Law, Policy, and Governance (3)
- **EPEL 8420** Advanced Instructional Leadership (3)
- **EPEL 8500** Central Office Leadership (3)
- **EPEL 8930** Psychological Aspects of Leadership (3)
- **EPEL 8930** Applied Research (3)
- **EPEL 9000** Concepts of Leadership and Research in Educational Leadership (3)
- **EPEL 9970** Advanced Seminar in Educational Leadership (3)
- **EPRS 7920** Classroom Testing, Grading, and Assessment (3)
- **EPRS 8500** Qualitative/Interpretive Research in Education I (3)
- **EPRS 8530** Quantitative Methods and Analysis in Education (3)
- **EPRS 8620** Educational Evaluation (3)
- **EPSF 8440** Curriculum Design and Analysis (3)
- **EPS 8360** Educational Policy Making and Analysis (3)
- **EPS 9990** Dissertation (9)

* Other appropriate courses numbered 8000 to 8999 may be substituted into the program of study by the Educational Leadership unit and the Ed.D. cohort coordinator.