

CHANGE IN THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EARNING THE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors change the principal requirements for the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with a reduction from a minimum of 90 credit hours to 75 credit hours, effective Fall term 2018.

Program Description

The current Doctor of Education (EdD) program requires a minimum of 90 credit hours. There are currently two paths in this program. One path is designed for practitioners who are interested in attaining upper level PK-12 administration positions, or in pursuing careers in educational advocacy and policy. The other path is in the area of Higher Education for students who are planning careers within the higher education sector, including positions such as director of student affairs, dean of students, or university instructor. In addition to coursework designed to enhance educational leadership skills, the program has a focus on developing students' practical application of educational research.

The Doctor of Education program will be reduced from a 90 credit-hour program to a minimum of 75 credit hours. The revised Doctor of Education program is a cohort-based program designed to allow students who enter the program with certain prerequisites to earn a doctorate within three to four years. The focus is on administrative leadership and research of issues in education.

Rationale

The proposed changes seek to differentiate between the EdD and PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. These proposed changes align with norms of educational leadership development seen across the country and are distinct from PhD programs where the objective is to prepare researchers and scholars. Course content will be reviewed on a continuing basis to ensure students develop knowledge and analytic skills to inform their practice. The primary differences from the current EdD program are as follows:

- 1) Reduction to 75 credit hours from the required 90 credit hours for a Doctor of Education degree: Informed by State and national standards for administrator preparation, this revision aligns with what is occurring nationally in the field of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, as programs seek to provide practitioners the knowledge and skills to enact research-based improvements. The EdD builds upon our Master's and Education Specialist programs by having a greater focus on administrative/organizational theory and educational policy development, implementation, and evaluation.
- 2) Removal of the six credit hours of required doctoral seminars: EdD students will have opportunities to engage with elements of the content covered in the out-of-field doctoral seminars within the required courses included in the program. There is a precedent for the exclusion of out-of-field doctoral seminars in doctoral programs within the college.
- 3) Reduction of the Research Techniques requirement from 11 to 10 credit hours: The rationale for reducing the research technique requirement from 11 to 10 hours stems from the

programmatic emphasis on the practical application of knowledge and research. These research skills will be refined with a focus on practical application for students' professional work. Applied knowledge and research activities will be incorporated throughout the courses to provide opportunities for students to address problems of practice.

Accommodation

Current students will be allowed to complete their program based on requirements at the time of admission or the revised requirements.

Approvals

The revisions to the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies has been approved by the Educational Leadership program in the Division of Administrative and Organizational Studies, the College of Education Faculty Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.