

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 75 credit hours to 66 credit hours, effective Fall term 2024.

Program Description

The current Doctor of Education (EdD) program requires a minimum of 75 credit hours and is designed to prepare practitioners (e.g., superintendents, associate superintendents, state policymakers, etc.) to identify and solve complex problems of practice through applied knowledge and research. As reported by the Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate, the EdD in Educational Leadership is “grounded in and develops a professional knowledge base that integrates both practical and research knowledge, that links theory with systemic and systematic inquiry” (<https://www.cpedinitiative.org/the-framework>).

Rationale

The proposed changes seek to further differentiate between the EdD and Doctor of Philosophy (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. Reducing the total credit hours allows for a cohort model where students who enter the program with certain prerequisites can earn a doctorate within three to four years.

The net reduction of nine credit hours for the degree is accomplished by the following:

1. Reduction of ten credit hours in dissertation.
2. Increase of one credit hour in coursework.

The reduction in dissertation credit hours is possible because of the integration of proposal writing into coursework over several semesters and is grounded in practical problems students identify in their organizations. With this focus and application, less time is needed for theoretical development for the research, negotiating relationships for data collection or identifying available data, and production of generalized knowledge.

The required coursework meets the Central Office Administrator Certification standards for the State of Michigan, develops knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for effective K-12 leadership, and prepares them to successfully complete a dissertation in practice. The sequence of courses is designed to demonstrate appropriate mastery of the preparation standards/competencies, including understanding the multidimensionality of diversity and the ability to impact learners as individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The proposed EdD program is highly competitive with our peers. Program coursework at WSU is a minimum of 26 credit hours, and the average among our peers is 34 credit hours. Similarly, dissertation hours at WSU are ten, and our peers average 12.

Doctor of Education Program Comparison Table

| Area | Central Michigan | Michigan State | Oakland | U of M Dearborn | U of M Flint | WSU Proposed | WSU Current |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Courses | 24-27 | 39 | 28 | 48 | 24 | 26-28 | 25 |
| Dissertation | 15 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 20 |
| Sub Total | 39 - 42 | 51 | 40 | 60 | 36 | 36-38 | 45 |
| Transfer | 24 | 0 | 20 | 6 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Total | 63-66 | 51 | 60 | 66 | 66 | 66-68 | 75 |

Accommodations

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 have 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.