Doctor of Education in Adult & Higher Education

Objectives
At the Doctor of Education level, the Adult & Higher Education program offers two specializations:

Higher Education Administration
The EdD in Higher Education Administration specialization is intended for individuals who will contribute to the administrative leadership within a range of diverse post-secondary settings. The primary objective of the degree is to produce informed scholarly practitioners for mid-to-upper level management or administrative positions. These individuals typically manage or direct either academic or student affairs operational functions. (51-60 credits beyond the master’s).

Higher Education Academics
The EdD Higher Education Academics specialization is intended for individuals who will teach and provide academic leadership in the area of college teaching and learning within a diverse range of post-secondary settings. Individuals pursuing this option may hold a Master’s degree within higher education or another discipline in which they will teach or provide academic leadership. (51-60 credits beyond the master’s).

Program Flow
After acceptance, the student will be assigned a temporary adviser and should then meet with his/her assigned adviser. Actual courses taken during the initial stage will be based on the student’s previous academic work and adviser/committee approval. The student will become acquainted with the Adult & Higher Education faculty and identify a permanent chair and committee members.

In the third semester of enrollment, the student with committee approval, will establish and submit their program of study to The Graduate School and clarify plans for the comprehensive examination on a set of prescribed courses. Near the end of completing course requirements, the student will write the comprehensive exam. The student will meet with the committee for the oral clarification of the comprehensive exam. If deemed necessary by the committee, the student may be required to take additional coursework to make up identified deficiencies. Toward the end of the program, the student will take at least 3 hours of Doctoral Thesis (EDLD 690) to begin preparation of the proposal. During the proposal preparation, the student will work closely with his/her chair and the readers of the committee with progress being made each semester. The student then presents/defends their proposal, which includes the study introduction, literature review, and research methodology. The student conducts the research and writes the dissertation work with the chair and committee readers with progress being made each semester towards completion of the dissertation. The student defends the dissertation.

Committees
Each doctoral student’s committee must consist of at least five approved members. The chair and one other approved member must be from the Adult & Higher Education faculty. Two other approved members will be selected based upon their ability to contribute to the student’s studies leading up to and through the dissertation research. These two committee members must have academic credentials in the area of the student’s program of study and be approved by the Dean of The Graduate School. A fifth member of the committee is an approved faculty member appointed by The Graduate School and serves as the graduate representative.

Chairs
The student should carefully select his/her chair after thorough conversations with the approved Adult & Higher Education faculty members that he/she believes might have an interest in their doctoral research agenda and/or the ability to work with them toward generating a defensible dissertation. The chair will give strong leadership and approval regarding the balance of the committee’s potential membership. The committee, as a whole, is subject to the approval of the Head of the Department of Education. The chair will facilitate program approval, comprehensive exam planning and clarification, proposal hearing, and dissertation defense. The chair and two other committee members will be the primary “readers” of the dissertation as it is being written. The importance of selecting the right chair cannot be overstated. However, chairs and members of a student’s committee are subject to change. In addition, revision to the program of study can be made during the course of study with the chair’s approval.

Comprehensive Examinations
Comprehensive examinations are required for completion of all graduate degrees at Montana State University. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of the program of study and the ability to interact with the research in that area. The level of mastery expected will vary according to the program. Students should refer to The Graduate School’s web page at: http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html

Near the end of completing coursework and before the dissertation proposal defense, EdD students will complete a written comprehensive exam. The exam is completed in writing and then orally defended in front of the entire Graduate Committee. Through the comprehensive exam, students will be expected to demonstrate:

- a competency in the breadth of knowledge covered in their coursework
- the ability to integrate concepts from courses into a holistic viewpoint
- the ability to apply material to anticipated real life situations based on the theoretical principles and concepts covered in classes
- the ability to critically read, analyze, and critique research
- a readiness to move forward to create their own research

Generally, there will be three primary question areas:

- Specialization area
- Foundation of Higher Education
- Research
  - read, analyze, and critique a research article
  - Design a project - will be expected to demonstrate a mastery of aspects of both qualitative and quantitative projects (such as sampling, validity, reliability, and data analysis)

However, these areas may be revised according to individual programs.

The oral defense of comprehensive exams must occur before November 1st in the fall semester and before spring break in the spring semester. The oral defense of the thesis, portfolio, or final dissertation must occur 14 working days before the last day of the semester.

Additional Doctor of Education Requirements
The Doctor of Education degree must meet the minimum requirements in the For Doctoral Students section on The Graduate School’s website
with the following exception: only fourteen (14) credits of dissertation are required. Additional requirements for the EdD degree beyond these minimums are available through the Department of Education. All EdD degree candidates are expected to be familiar with both The Graduate School’s degree requirements listed here: http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html and Department of Education degree requirements listed on each of the three program’s websites.

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EdD in Higher Education Options:
• EdD Higher Education Academics (Teaching) (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/education-health-human-development/education/edd-adult-higher-education/edd-higher-education-academics)
• EdD Higher Education Administration (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/education-health-human-development/education/edd-adult-higher-education/edd-higher-education-administration)

Application Process for the EdD in Higher Education
Complete the online application through the Graduate School Online Application System (http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/apply.html)

Applicants are to submit the following documentation during the application process:

1. GPA calculation sheet (The form is provided during the application process).
2. Resume/Curriculum vitae.
3. Documentation of verbal and quantitative skills needed for the degree – Submit official GRE (minimum Verbal 150, Quantitative 145) or MAT scores (minimum 390) sent from the testing agency to Montana State University (code 4488).
4. Academic Transcripts – Provide official transcripts verifying all Bachelors degree and Masters degree course work. These can be unofficially uploaded during the application process; however, official transcripts will also need to be submitted directly to the Department of Education Graduate Programs Office, 215 Reid Hall, PO Box 172880, Montana State University, 59717. Transcripts will be evaluated for rigor and academic fit. Electronic transcripts are also acceptable as long as they arrive directly from the applicants certifying university.
5. Personal essay – Suggested length is 2-3 pages, double-spaced. The applicant should briefly describe the following: background, prior professional and leadership experience, why the interest in the EdD program, and how the applicant plans to use the degree.
6. Three (3) professional references – The letters should be from individuals qualified to assess one’s ability and potential as a graduate student and/or be able to attest to the applicants work ethic and professionalism. References from relatives are not acceptable.

7. For International Applicants ONLY – TOEFL (https://www.ets.org/toefl) or ACE level 7 – Applicants who are not U.S. citizens and not from countries where English is the official language are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language and score a minimum 213 (paper version- 550, 80 for the iBT). This requirement may be waived if the applicant has earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an institution in the U.S.

Application Deadlines
The following are the preferred application deadline dates by which all of the application materials must be submitted via the online application system.

• Fall Semester: May 1st
• Spring Semester: November 1st
• Summer Semester: April 1st

The following is the absolute deadline date for fall semester. If an applicant is unable to submit all application materials via the online application system by the preferred dates listed above, he or she can submit the materials by the date listed below, as there will be a second review for fall semester.

• Fall Semester: August 15th

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