Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

Program Objectives
Those students completing the degree requirements for the EdS or EdD will have met the academic requirements necessary for a Montana Class III Administrative license with a Superintendent endorsement. Additionally, the Educational Leadership Program at Montana State University offers the Montana School Superintendent Certificate Program for students who already hold a Master's degree and Principal Licensure.

Program Flow
The Educational Leadership program courses are offered using blended delivery methods. Blended courses use a combination of distance delivery and face-to-face meetings. Many EdD program courses are blended such that the class meets for face-to-face instruction one weekend a month and online during the weeks in between meetings.

After admission to the EdD program, the applicant will be assigned a temporary advisor and should then meet with his/her assigned advisor. Actual courses taken during the initial stage will be based on the student's previous academic work and advisor/committee approval.

Program of Study

Doctoral Core Courses (15 credits) choose from the following  
- EDU 604 Advanced Educational Psychology
- EDLD 610 Leadership and Organizational Theory
- EDLD 630 Supervision & Instructional Leadership
- EDLD 643 Leading Social Justice
- EDLD 657 Education Policy & Politics
- EDLD 591 Special Topics

Superintendent Certification Required Courses (15 credits)  
- EDLD 574 Field Experience in Educational Leadership
- EDLD 620 The School Superintendent
- EDLD 645 Personnel and Collective Bargaining in MT
- EDLD 650 MT Finance & Facilities
- EDLD 655 MT Legal & Policy Studies

Research Required Core Courses (15 credits)  
- EDU 600 Doctoral Seminar
- EDU 602 Educational Statistics II
- EDU 610 Qualitative Educational Research
- EDU 607 Quantitative Educational Research
- EDU 650 Dissertation Seminar
- EDU 690 Doctoral Thesis

Dissertation Credits (15 credits)  
- Total Credits 60

Committees
Each doctoral student’s committee must consist of at least four approved members. The chair and one other approved member must be from the Educational Leadership 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 Head of the Department of Education and Dean of the Graduate School.

Chairs
The student should carefully select a chair after thorough conversations with the Educational Leadership faculty members that he/she believes might have an interest in his/her doctoral research and/or the ability to work with him/her towards generating a defensible dissertation. The committee as a whole is subject to approval by the Head of the Department of Education. The chair will advise students in selecting committee members and in understanding the dissertation process. The chair and at least one other committee member 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 the 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 committee’s approval.

Comprehensive Examinations
Comprehensive examinations are required for completion of all EdD degrees in Educational Leadership. Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of the program of study and the ability to interact with the research in that area. Students should refer to The Graduate School’s Policies and Procedures (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html#degreq_doc_gen) web page.

After completion of at least two thirds of the required coursework, 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: 1) the ability to integrate concepts from courses into a holistic viewpoint; 2) the ability to apply material to anticipated real-life situations based on the theoretical principles and concepts covered in classes; 3) the ability to critically read, analyze, and critique research; and 4) a readiness to move forward to create their own research.

Generally, there are two primary question areas: 1) Identification of a topic with the potential to contribute to the literature in Educational Leadership, and a critical evaluation of the research on that topic; and 2) Design a research project on the topic of interest. Students will be expected to demonstrate a mastery of aspects of both qualitative and quantitative projects (such as sampling, validity, reliability, data analysis).

Additional Doctor of Education Requirements
The Doctor of Education degree must meet the minimum requirements in the For Doctoral Students section of the Graduate School’s website. 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 (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html#degreq_doc_gen) and Department of Education degree requirements listed on the program’s website.

Contact Information
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Dr. Bill Ruff
**Application Materials for the EdD in Educational Leadership**

*Prior to applying for an Educational Leadership EdD program, applicants must have a Master’s degree in education or a related topic, have gained at least three years teaching experience as a certified or licensed teacher, and possess a 3.0 undergraduate GPA. Those applicants who do not hold an administrative license will be required to take principal preparation coursework as prerequisites to many doctoral courses.*

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. **Completed Graduate School Application**
2. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae**
3. **Documentation of verbal and quantitative skills needed for the degree:** The general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required. Official scores can be sent to Montana State University (code 4488). There is no minimum score requirement. Applications are reviewed holistically and take into account all elements.
4. **Personal Essay:** Suggested length is 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages. The applicant should briefly describe the following:
   a. Education and other educational professional experiences
   b. Research interests and experience including alignment with faculty interests and expertise and an example of research experiences using educational theory, research methods, and application.
   c. Professional goals
5. **Three (3) letters of recommendation:** (NOTE: At least one of the three letters must be from the candidate’s *PRESENT* direct supervisor in his/her educational field.) **The letters should be from individuals qualified to assess the following:**
   a. Knowledge in chosen field
   b. Motivation and perseverance toward goals
   c. Ability to work independently
   d. Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing
   e. Ability/potential for college teaching
   f. Ability to plan and conduct research
6. **Academic Transcripts:** Applicants must provide **official** transcripts verifying *all* Bachelors degree and Masters degree course work. **Unofficial transcripts** may be uploaded during the application process. **Official transcripts** must be sent from the Institution directly to the Department of Education Graduate Programs Office, 215 Reid Hall, PO Box 172880, Montana State University, 59717. Electronic transcripts are also acceptable as long as they arrive directly from the applicants certifying university. Please have electronic transcripts sent to edgrad@montana.edu. Transcripts from a degree awarded through MSU do not need to be provided. **NOTE:** We require an undergraduate and graduate GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Transcripts will be evaluated for rigor and academic fit.
7. **For International Applicants ONLY:** In addition to the above, international applicants will be required to submit the following:
   a. **TOEFL** ([https://www.ets.org/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 a score a minimum 213 (paper version – 550, 60 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. For more information on the International application process, see this link: [http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/admissions_intl.html](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/admissions_intl.html)

**Application Deadlines**

Below is the deadline by which all of the application materials for the EdD in Educational Leadership must be submitted via the online application system. Students matriculate into the EdD program in the fall semester only. Applications to the EdD programs are reviewed once per year at the April 1st deadline. Applications received after the deadline may be reviewed for acceptance on a case-by-case basis.

- **Fall Semester:** April 1st

*An early review deadline of February 1st has been set for those applicants wanting to be considered for Graduate Assistantships. Graduate Assistantships require students to work on campus 19 hours per week. Applications must be complete for an early review.*

**Contact Information**

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Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Times was used instead of Adobe Garamond Pro.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.