Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Educational Leadership

Objectives
The PhD in Education is designed for graduate students seeking faculty or research positions in higher education or positions within research organizations that require educational research in highly specialized disciplines. Progress through the degree provides students with opportunities to develop specialized disciplinary content and research knowledge along with scholarly experiences that will provide the foundational knowledge and skills required for success as faculty in higher education and in research organizations.

The PhD in Education with emphasis in Educational Leadership will prepare students to develop knowledge and conduct research related to six major areas of strength among our existing faculty including: (1) Leadership and Policy Analysis, (2) Leader Identity and Authenticity, (3) Leadership for Social Justice and in Indigenous Contexts, (4) Leader Self-Efficacy/School Collective Efficacy, (5) Instructional Leadership in Rural Contexts, and (6) Education Evaluation, Assessment, Research Design and Analysis. Special emphasis in these major research areas will address topics specific to Montana including working with rural communities and Native Americans on state and other educational issues.

Graduates of this PhD program in education will be well-positioned to directly and positively affect the data driven culture related to improving the educational systems of Montana and beyond.

Program Flow
After being admitted to the PhD program, 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 program is designed to be specifically tailored to each doctoral student’s related research interest while providing cutting edge knowledge and skills in research and theory. The program is structured to be completed in 4 to 5 years with full-time tuition support for qualified students provided by the Department of Education.

Program of Study

Core Content - choose 9 credits

- EDLD 605 Higher Education History and Philosophy
- EDCI 604 Advanced Educational Psychology
- EDLD 635 College Teaching
- EDLD 610 Leadership and Organizational Theory
- EDLD 643 Leading Social Justice

Required Core Content Courses - 4 credits

- EDU 600 Doctoral Seminar
- EDU 650 Dissertation Seminar

Educational Leadership Concentration - 15 credits

- Electives appropriate to area of specialization & approved by Graduate Advisor. Examples of General Curriculum courses to choose from should be discussed with advisor.

Required Research Courses - 9 credits

- EDU 602 Educational Statistics II

Advanced Research Electives - choose 9 credits

- EDU 614 Planning Program Assessment
- EDU 606 Mixed Methods Research Design in Education
- EDU 612 Critical Race Theory
- EDU 637 Institutional Research and Assessment
- EDU 608 Advanced Quantitative Research
- EDU 611 Advanced Qualitative Research
- EDU 613 Indigenous Methodologies in Educational Research

Electives also may be taken that are appropriate to the research area of specialization and approved by the graduate advisor.

Dissertation - 18 credits

- EDLD 690 Doctoral Thesis

Total Credits 64

Residency Requirement
The PhD requires one year of on campus, full-time residency. The residency requirement consists of two consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment (6-9 credits per semester) in PhD coursework.

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. For information regarding graduate representatives, please refer to the Graduate School policy.

Chair
The student should carefully select a chair after thorough conversations with those Educational Leadership faculty members that he/she believes might have an interest in his/her doctoral research agenda and/or the ability to work with him/her toward generating a defensible dissertation. The chair will give 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. Chairs and members of a student’s committee are subject to change. Revision to the program of study can be made during the course of study with the chair’s approval.

Comprehensive Examinations
As PhD students in Educational Leadership approach the end of their coursework (46 credits completed), and prior to the Dissertation proposal meeting, they will contact their committee chair to discuss the content and format of the required written and oral comprehensive
examinations. The comprehensive exams must be completed by the posted Graduate School deadlines.

**Additional 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 PhD degree beyond these minimums are available through the Department of Education. All PhD 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](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy/degreq_doctoral.html) and Department of Education degree requirements listed on the department website.

**How to Apply**

Application requirements can be accessed through the Department of Education’s Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership Application Process ([http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/edlead/applications.html](http://www.montana.edu/education/grad/edlead/applications.html)) web page. Application deadline is April 1st. Apply online through The Graduate School ([http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html](http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html)).

**Contact Information**

Dr. Tena Versland, Program Leader  
406-994-6799 Email: tena.versland@montana.edu

Dr. Bill Ruff  
406-994-4182 Email: wruff@montana.edu

Dr. David Henderson  
406-994-6424 Email: david.henderson3@montana.edu

Dr. Art Bangert  
406-994-7424 Email: abangert@montana.edu

**Application Process for the PhD in Education, Educational Leadership**

Applicants are required to complete the online application and submit the following documentation via the Graduate School Online Application System ([http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/apply.html](http://www.montana.edu/wwwdg/apply.html)).

1. **Completed Graduate School Application**

2. **GPA calculation sheet** (The form is provided during the application process)

3. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae**

4. **Documentation of verbal and quantitative skills needed for the degree**: Submit official GRE (minimum Verbal 155, Quantitative 150) sent from the testing agency to Montana State University (code 4488).

5. **Academic Transcripts**: Applicants must provide Official transcripts verifying all Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree coursework. Unofficial transcripts may be uploaded during the online 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, Bozeman, MT 59717. Electronic transcripts are also acceptable as long as they arrive directly from the applicants’ certifying university. Please have electronic transcripts sent to margaret.secrest@montana.edu. Transcripts will be evaluated for rigor and academic fit.

6. **Personal Essay**: Suggested length is 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages. The applicant should briefly describe the following:

   - Education and other educational professional experiences
   - Research interests and experience including alignment with faculty interests and expertise and an example of research experiences using educational theory, research methods, and application.
   - Professional goals

7. **Three (3) Professional References**: The letters should be from individuals qualified to assess the following: *(Note: At least one of the three letters must be from the candidate’s PRESENT direct supervisor in his/her educational field.)*

   - Knowledge in chosen field
   - Motivation and perseverance toward goals
   - Ability to work independently
   - Ability to express thoughts in speech and writing
   - Ability/potential for college teaching
   - Ability to plan and conduct research

8. **For International Applicants ONLY**: In addition to the above, International applicants will be required to submit the following:

   - English proficiency scores: TOEFL [80], IELTS [level 6.5], or PTE [54], are necessary for applicants who are not U.S. citizens and not from countries where English is the official language. This requirement is 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)
   - Copy of applicant’s passport
   - Degree certificates as well as an English translation for all non-English academic transcripts and credentials. Photocopies can be used to initiate the application process; however, official transcripts/credentials are still required upon admission.

*Note: Applicants may be contacted for an interview by the program specific applicant review committee.

**Application Deadlines**

Below is the deadline by which all of the application materials for the PhD in Education must be submitted via the online application system. Students matriculate into the PhD program in the fall semester only. Applications to the PhD 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

**Admission Process**

Complete applications will be reviewed by members of the Graduate Admissions Committee who then convene to make final admission decisions. Once a decision has been made the application will be forwarded to The Graduate School for final administrative processing.
Please note that the application review process will begin on the application deadline dates and not before.

Contact Information
Micki MacGregor, Graduate Program Assistant
PO Box 172880, Reid Hall 215
Department of Education, Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-2880
Phone: 406-994-6786 Email: edgrad@montana.edu
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.