Educational Leadership
Doctor of Philosophy

The Department of Educational Leadership prides itself on being a leader in the field with an internationally recognized academic program that combines theory and practice to provide a scholar-practitioner educational model. Our innovative and responsive curriculum fosters intellectual vitality and facilitates the development of our world-class students and faculty.

The academic experience is designed to provide our students with an understanding of basic concepts and advanced knowledge of educational leadership. The academic offerings apply to leadership positions in the elementary, middle, secondary, and higher education levels as well as for the non-profit sector.

It is the mission of the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program to prepare persons for leadership and teaching positions in schools, colleges or universities, and public or private agencies. The following four goals apply to all areas of emphasis within the program PK-12 education and higher education.

Goal 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of how personal educational practice guides and supports the learning of others.

Goal 2: The student will demonstrate the ability to apply research and research methods relevant to the field of study.

Goal 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge and application of educational practices related to the foundations (personal, historical, philosophical, sociological, anthropological, psychological, and/or multicultural) for learning and teaching.

Goal 4: The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills in understanding ways of engaging learners in the active construction of knowledge relevant to the advanced discipline of study.

Admission Requirements

The following criteria will be used to assess a student’s application for admission into the doctoral programs in the Department of Educational Leadership. No single criterion can adequately predict a student’s probable success in graduate work; as such, candidates for admission to the doctoral programs are evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Completion of a master’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. Grade point average from all previous graduate work (minimum of 3.5 required)
3. Professional resume
4. Educational leadership essay
5. Statement of professional goals
6. Writing sample
7. Three (3) letters of recommendation
8. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies’ English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
9. Interview. Applicants who successfully meet all the above requirements will be interviewed by members of the T&L Admissions Committee, either face-to-face on campus or via a synchronous online format. Final admission decisions will be based on the interview.
10. Students who have received a bachelor’s degree or higher from the United States or English-speaking Canada are not required to submit the TOEFL.
11. All PK-12 applicants are required to have a teaching credential, three years of teaching experience, and administrative experience in PK-12 environments.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Educational Leadership Department.
The Ph.D. program in Educational Leadership is designed for students preparing for positions in which research and creative experience are predominant interests. Ph.D. candidates are expected to have undertaken and completed independent research leading to an original contribution of knowledge in the field. It is generally expected that the Ph.D. dissertation will be publishable. This degree option typically provides preparation for those who aspire to leadership positions in higher education, in government agencies, or in other educational policy organizations.

1. A minimum of 90 semester credit hours of course work beyond the bachelor’s degree.
2. Maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA for all classes completed as a graduate student.
3. Completion of a dissertation, which incorporates independent work that is an original contribution to knowledge.
4. With approval of a student’s Faculty Advisory Committee, up to 30 credits from a master’s degree may be transferred from another institution.
5. Successful completion of comprehensive examinations in Educational Leadership and Educational Research.
6. Successful completion of a final examination.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

• Sherryl Houdek, Ph.D., K-12 school district leadership; administration/personnel development of schools; school governance structures; policy development in K-12 schools; school improvement process; K-12 finance & budget; superintendent and school board relations
• Brenda Kallio, Ed.D., Ethical decision making in rural schools; special issues regarding at-risk children; and the legal knowledge base of school administrators
• Gary Schnellert, Ph.D., International and comparative education; public policy and education; educational reform; industrial education
• Pauline Stonehouse, Ph.D., Instructional leadership; supervision and evaluation, in-service teacher education, professional learning communities, curriculum and instructional development, online communities of practice, and international graduate experience

Contact Information

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Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.  Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu