

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Leadership



SHENANDOAH[®]
UNIVERSITY
Division of Education & Leadership

A Part-time, Four-Year Doctoral Program (Minimum 62 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Leadership program is a part-time, low-residency program designed for experienced professionals in PreK–12, higher education, and education-related fields. Students engage in rigorous research, collaborate with peers and faculty, and explore complex educational issues with the goal of advancing equity, innovation, and leadership in diverse learning environments.

Program Highlights

- **Flexible Low-Residency Format** designed for full-time professionals
- **Cohort-Based Learning** that fosters scholarly community and collaboration
- **Hands-On Research Mentorship** through faculty-led projects at various stages
- **Global Learning Experience** with study abroad and international partnerships
- **Concentration Options** tailored to:
 - Higher Education Leadership
 - Initial Administrative Licensure (*PreK-12 VA licensure eligible*)
 - Educational Leadership (*Individualized focus area*)

A minimum of 62 credits is required. The program is organized around an interdisciplinary leadership and research core that is complemented by the learner's chosen concentration.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Master's degree with a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Unofficial transcripts for initial admission from all previously attended postsecondary institutions
- Three letters of recommendation: one from an immediate supervisor, one addressing academic ability, and one addressing leadership or professional experience in the chosen concentration
- One (1) page resume
- Statement of purpose (maximum three double-spaced pages) outlining goals and motivation
- Interview with the PhD in Educational Leadership Program Coordinator (applicant should contact and schedule)
- Language proficiency requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details:
<https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

TRANSFER CREDITS

The Ph.D. in Educational Leadership requires a minimum of 62 credits. Students may transfer up to 15 graduate credits earned at a regionally accredited institution with grades of A or B. The program coordinator and academic advisor must approve all transfer and course substitution requests. Additional coursework may be required to ensure a coherent degree plan.

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Fall (August) 2025

Admission Deadline

Priority Deadline: May 19

Format/Location

Low Residency: Combination of selected Saturday in-person classes (Winchester or Loudoun campuses) and weekday Zoom classes in the evening.

Tuition for 2025-2026

\$490 per credit

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to www.su.edu/sehdapp

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Please note: visa-seeking F-1 international students cannot receive visa documentation for this program due to its part-time nature.

Contact Us

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PhD in Educational Leadership Program
Coordinator
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Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>
finaid@su.edu | call: 540-665-4538



Dr. Sarah R. Daniel
PhD in Educational Leadership Program
Coordinator

CAMPUS LOCATIONS



Winchester Main Campus
1460 University Drive
Winchester, VA 22601



James L. Bowman Building
20 South Cameron Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601



SU Loudoun
44160 Scholar Plaza Suite 100
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

CURRICULUM

The degree requirement is a minimum of 62 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Program Core		
LST 710	Leadership: Theory & Application	3
LST 720	Societal Factors: Influences on Policy, Programs, and Practice	3
LST 735	Organizational Theory & Behavior	3
LST 740	Governance & Public Policy	3
LST 626	Change in Public Sector & Nonprofit Organizations	3
Total		15

Research Core		
RST 765	Foundations of Doctoral Research	3
RST 775	Quantitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 776	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 784	Qualitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 785	Advanced Qualitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 766	Writing in the Literature	1
Total		16

Applied Research		
RST 790	Quantitative/Qualitative - Proposal	2
RST 791	Quantitative/Qualitative - Pilot	2
RST 798	Directed Graduate Research	3
Total		7

Dissertation*		
RST 799	Dissertation (minimum)	15
Total		15

*Students who do not complete the dissertation after 15 credits of RST 799 must remain continuously enrolled in RST 799 (one credit per term) until completion.

Concentrations (choose one):

Leadership in Education (*Individualized focus area*)

The concentration consists of 9 graduate credits in a subfield of educational leadership, selected in consultation with the academic advisor. Courses should reflect recognized knowledge areas aligned with the student's professional or academic goals.

Initial Administrative Licensure (*PreK-12 Virginia licensure eligible*)

Graduates who complete this concentration, along with the required core and research courses, meet the requirements for Virginia licensure in PreK-12 Administration and Supervision. To earn a five-year endorsement, candidates must pass the state-required assessment, hold a valid teaching license, and have at least three years of teaching experience.

ADM 623	School Law	3
ADM 624	School Finance	3
ADM 640	Curriculum Development & Evaluation	3
ADM 641	Supervision & Evaluation of Instruction	3
ADM626	Practicum in Educational Leadership	3
Total		15

Higher Education Leadership

The concentration consists of 12 graduate credits that focus on leadership in postsecondary settings, including advancement, student affairs, academic administration, policy, and the strategic use of technology.

LST 591	Introduction to Higher Education	3
LST 650	Student Affairs Theory & Practice	3
LST 676	Financial & Advancement in Higher Education Leadership	3
LST 677	Technological Innovation in Higher Education Leadership	3
Total		12

Program

Total 62-68