



**University of Maine
College of Education and Human Development**

***Leading to the Doctor of Education Degree
with a Focus in PK-12 Educational Leadership***

Since 1983, the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership has offered experienced educational leaders an opportunity to stretch professionally and academically. The program is designed to equip students with the skills and insight to understand organizational dynamics and leadership options in an increasingly complex world. Coursework experiences take place collaboratively within two cohorts (see below) and help develop and strengthen students' knowledge and skills as educators, critical thinkers, and researchers.

Program: Focus and Direction

Coursework, collaborative learning experiences, and research are directed toward meeting the demands of effective and influential leadership in a variety of areas, including:

- ◆ human and organizational development
- ◆ educational policy analysis
- ◆ change and school reform
- ◆ leadership theory and practice

Academic Framework

A minimum of 90 graduate credits is required beyond the bachelor's degree. Up to 45 credits may be applied upon evaluation of prior coursework. Subsequent selection of coursework has three foci:

- ◆ A cross disciplinary cohort with other doctoral students focused on the doctoral core courses (including philosophy, educational psychology, social context of education) (12 credits) and the research core (12 credits minimum)
- ◆ An educational leadership cohort focused on providing a comprehensive background in the field of leadership (15 cr. minimum);
- ◆ Individual work requiring a thorough and specialized knowledge in the dissertation research area (12 cr. minimum).

Usually the course work phase of doctoral work takes three years. The proposal development phase (including writing the qualifying paper) usually takes one to two years. The dissertation phase (including data collection through writing and defending) generally takes two to four years.

Schedule and Format

To the degree possible, courses are adapted to the needs, interests, and schedules of the group. Students meet residency requirements by taking two courses per semester for a minimum of four consecutive semesters, including at least one course during summers. Each semester students take two courses: a core cohort course and an educational leadership course. Core courses will be held on a varying schedule (generally Thursdays) and will be held on campus with some courses incorporating distance-learning options. The EDL courses will be held on Mondays and Saturdays at an off campus location central to the majority of students accepted into the program.

Who Should Apply

The PK-12 Educational Leadership Doctoral Program seeks candidates who

- ◆ have leadership experience in K-12 education and who wish to grow professionally and academically;
- ◆ demonstrate the self-direction necessary for advanced graduate study and independent research; and
- ◆ possess the ability and motivation to succeed in the rigorous personal and academic demands of doctoral study.
- ◆ have a Master's degree in Educational Leadership or a related field.

Pre Doctoral Coursework

Core Requirements for the Educational Leadership concentration include courses in Organizational Theory, Leadership Practice, and Research. The research core requires at least an introductory level educational research course and statistics. We strongly recommend that students take EDS 521: Statistics before entering the program since it is a required course and pre requisite to the doctoral research courses. Particular CAS level courses are acceptable for transfer into the program (up to 15 credits). They include:

- EDA 570 Models of Education Evaluation
- EDC 595 Leadership in Curriculum Design for Administrators and Supervisors
- EAD 636 Politics, Power and Policy in Educational Leadership
- EAD 650 Leadership Styles in Educational Leadership
- EAD 651 Organizational Behavior in Education
- EAD 656 Social and Ethical Foundations of Educational Leadership
- EDH 660 Historical Roots of Educational Thought and Practice
- EDS 642 Seminar in School Leadership
- EDS 643 Seminar in School District Leadership

After students are accepted, the faculty does an analysis of each transcript to indicate to students their credit needs so they can complete an individual program of study.

The Application Process

The application process provides several sources of information for the faculty to use to assess the student's likelihood for success in the program. There are two major parts—the graduate school application and the leadership essay.

1. Application to the Graduate School. All applications are submitted on line. Directions and requirements are at <http://www.umaine.edu/graduate/>

2. Supplemental application materials for the Educational Leadership Program. These are:

A. An up-to-date vita providing a brief overview of your professional background.

B. Leadership Essay. The purpose of the leadership essay is to provide the faculty evaluating your candidacy with evidence regarding your:

- goals and expectations for doctoral study (to assess fit with programmatic goals and resources);
- writing ability;
- capacity to be reflective and analytical.

The Essay has two parts:

- **Rationale:** a brief description of: (1) your expectations and aspirations in seeking a doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership, (2) how the study of educational leadership fits with your past experience and education and with your aspirations for the future, (3) the areas where you hope to expand your knowledge through advanced study. (Maximum length: 2 double-spaced pages)
- **Description and Critical Analysis and Reflection of an Initiative** in which you have played a significant role as an educational leader.
 - **Describe** the initiative, your role, and critical events and outcomes associated with it.
 - **Analyze** these events to examine why and how the course of events occurred as they did.
 - Finally **evaluate** your role and behavior as a leader in this initiative and draw implications for yourself and your organization’s capacity to respond and/or improve. (Maximum length: 10 double-spaced pages.)

The supplemental materials described above should be submitted in two pdf files to joEllen_carr@umit.maine.edu. Each should be labeled with your last name and either vita or essay. **Please note: do not send the supplemental materials to the Graduate School.**

Deadline

Completed applications for the 2012 doctoral cohort **must be received no later than MARCH 9, 2012**. This deadline applies to both the Graduate School application and the Supplemental Materials.

Selection Process

In selecting candidates to be admitted to this highly selective doctoral program, the faculty assesses each candidate’s application material and portfolio. Below are the areas or items they assess in order to make a decision about a candidate’s experience—academic and professional—and his or her aptitude for doctoral work.

1. Academic record
2. Graduate Record Exam Test scores
3. Work experience
4. Leadership experience
5. Relevance of experience to pursuit of our doctoral program
6. Clarity of goals and their relevance to our program
7. Ability to organize, analyze, and manipulate abstractions in writing
8. Ability to evaluate and synthesize organizational thought, especially as it relates to doctoral work.

Interview

Applicants *may be* requested to participate in an interview with faculty for the purposes of clarifying application materials, discussing the extent to which the candidate's educational and career objectives are consistent with the program's goals and resources, and providing an opportunity for the applicant to gain additional understanding of the program. Through the interview process, we assess candidates in the categories listed above.

Admission

Following faculty review of the applications, the Director of the Graduate School will provide each applicant with written notification of the admissions decision. A member of the Educational Leadership faculty will communicate with you, too, about specific orientation procedures for the program.

Further Information

We look forward to helping you make a solid decision regarding your appropriateness for the program. Contact Jo-Ellen Carr at 581-2455 or a member of the faculty.

Educational Leadership Faculty

Richard Ackerman (581-3170) richard.ackerman@umit.maine.edu

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