Unique EdD Program

Our Doctor of Education (EdD) program was redesigned to incorporate cutting edge research and practice for doctor of education degrees. Our design was informed by our work with the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED), a consortium of more than 90 universities around the country.

The EdD at UMSL offers strong, relevant higher learning for the advanced preparation of school practitioners and clinical faculty, academic leaders and professional staff for the nation’s schools and colleges and the learning organizations that support them.

Cutting Edge Preparation

Our EdD students work in learning communities for the three-year course of study. The learning communities are organized around an area of practice — for instance, STEM fields, character education, global education, creative design and innovation, and school administration. Teams of faculty and practitioner mentors guide the learning community for the length of the program. This structure models the communities of practice typically found among education professionals.

The mentor team and community members build their community’s unique curriculum after identifying the problems and challenges of practice in their thematic area. Inquiry and tool courses are selected based on community needs.

The capstone is completed as a laboratory of practice often spent on site and a dissertation in practice. The dissertation in practice addresses a problem of practice and can be single-authored or co-authored. The problem of practice can be addressed in many forms, such as action research, program evaluations, or client-based problems.
Aspiring to be a Leading Practitioner

This program is intended specifically for practitioners and is focused on helping practitioners improve their practice and their educational organizations, be they schools, colleges, universities, non-profits, or community initiatives. In fact, some of the tool courses are designed to help practitioners improve their practice.

The EdD is an 80-credit (Master’s and Doctoral work combined) graduate program. Students can apply previous graduate work from Master’s and Ed.S. degree programs. Learning communities determine their own schedules but most meet once or twice per week on campus, with students enrolling in six credits per semester and completing three semesters per year.

Application Requirements

To apply, potential students must:

• Apply for admission to the Graduate School and the EdD program
• Complete a supplemental application for a learning community
• Submit transcripts of all previous college/university work
• Present three letters of recommendation
• Submit a resume and proof of practice
• Attend an interview with the mentor team that can include a writing sample

No test scores are required. Applications are due by April 1st for a Fall Semester start. Please check the College of Education web site for a list of the learning communities taking applications in the current year.

Your EdD program provides an advanced professional education designed to improve practice, knowledge, and skills useful in your current or planned educational role.

Innovative Education... Engaged Educators

The College of Education at UMSL offers authentic, in-depth learning experiences to prepare current and future education professionals for transformative roles in their communities and careers. Our graduate students have access to 14 endowed professors in various aspects of education and educational leadership, and benefit from working with some of the most well-respected scholars in the country.

UMSL at a glance

The University of Missouri—St. Louis is a public, research university located in Missouri’s most populous and economically important region. Founded in 1963, UMSL attracts more students than any other university in the St. Louis region.

We offer you 54 undergraduate degree choices from our five colleges. And we partner with more than 400 companies and organizations for our internship program. You’ll get out of the classroom, gain practical experience, make connections and jump-start your career.

St. Louis:
Something for everyone

UMSL is a vital part of St. Louis, and the city and surrounding areas make up the most culturally vibrant region in Missouri. That means we offer you more than a top-ranked learning environment.

There’s a night out with friends on Washington Avenue. An exhibit opening at the Saint Louis Art Museum. A Saturday afternoon at the Saint Louis Zoo. A home-run celebration at Busch Stadium.

St. Louis is a place where you can be you.