Frequently Asked Questions About the Doctor of Education Degree Program

2014 -15
Who is this program for?

- Practitioners who would like to continue in practice (not change careers)
- Practitioners who would like to become problem solvers and innovators in their work
- Practitioners who would like to become leaders in their practice
- Practitioners who would like to work in community to improve practice
The Ed.D. program is organized around thematic learning communities.

- Community consists of doctoral students and faculty mentors
- Community is organized around a theme, such as STEM, Higher Education Student Services, Leadership, or Character Education
- Members take all courses together, that is, they move as a cohort through the program
How long does it take to finish?

- Learning Communities register for 6 credit hours, fall, spring and summer
  - The resident tuition for 6 credits in 2014-15 was $2,491.20
  - The workload for 6 credits is approximately 6 hours in class and 12-18 hours outside classes per week
- Learning Communities finish in 3 years or possibly 3 years + 1 semester
How many credits are required?

- At UMSL, credit requirements for doctoral programs are worded as “post-baccalaureate” and previous graduate degrees can be folded into the required number of credits.
- The Ed.D. is an 80-credit degree program.
- Those with a 33 credit Master’s, for example, already have 33 of the 80.
- Those with an Ed.S. are required to take only 27 more credits (but still work over 3 yrs with their community).
Community meets continuously from the start of the program to the finish

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LC Seminar (E7600)</td>
<td>LC Seminar (E7610)</td>
<td>LC Seminar (E7620)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LC Seminar (E7630)</td>
<td>LC Seminar (E7640)</td>
<td>Lab of Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dissertation in Practice (E7998)</td>
<td>Dissertation in Practice (E7998)</td>
<td>Dissertation in Practice (E7998)</td>
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These courses are typically 3 of the 6 credits.
What other courses do communities take?

- Common Courses (taken with other thematic learning communities)
  - Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
  - Program Evaluation
  - Legal and Ethical Issues
  - Building Socially Just Programs

- Eight one-credit tool/inquiry courses
How are courses scheduled?

- Our goal is to average two trips to campus per week
- Learning community seminars typically meet one evening
- Common courses often meet on Saturdays (not every Saturday)
- One-credit courses might meet on the same evening as the seminar, on another evening (not every week), or Saturdays
How often do the themes start?

- Our thematic learning communities are dependent on the formation of faculty mentor teams.
- If a faculty mentor team wishes to repeat their theme, they usually start a new community when the current community graduates (usually every 3 years).
- Applicants can prepare for an admission window by preparing to be very busy with the program, having less time for other activities, and by saving for tuition costs.
How do I know when a theme will start?

- We will announce the themes starting in a given Fall Semester on our web page in January of that year.
- The application deadline will be April 1\textsuperscript{st} of that year.
What is need to apply?

- The online Application to Graduate School accessed from the UMSL home page
- All transcripts of higher education work sent to the Admissions Office, official copies only
- A Supplemental Application to the Ed.D.
- A current resume’ or curriculum vita (C.V.)
- Three letters of recommendation

More information about all of these items can be found on the Ed.D. web pages in the “Documents” tab.
Here are some of our learning communities!

Higher Education Student Services
Students in their Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Class