

Frequently Asked Questions About the Doctor of Education Degree Program

2017



For whom is the program intended?

- 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 within a learning community to improve practice

The Ed.D. program is organized around thematic Learning Communities

- A learning community consists of doctoral students and faculty mentors
- A learning community is organized around a theme, such as STEM, which will launch in Fall 2017
- Members take all courses together, moving through the program in a cohort

How long does it take to finish the program?

- Learning Communities typically register for 6 credit hours each semester (Fall, Spring and Summer)
 - The workload for 6 credits is approximately 6 hours in class and 12-18 hours outside of class per week
- Learning Communities typically finish in **3 years** plus the final summer session

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)

Learning Community seminars* meet continuously from the start of the program to the finish

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	LC Seminar I (7600)	LC Seminar II (7610)	LC Seminar III (7620)
2	LC Seminar IV (7630)	LC Seminar V (7640)	LC Seminar VI (7650)
3	Laboratory of Practice (7889)	Dissertation in Practice (7998)	Dissertation in Practice (7998)

These courses are typically 3-4 of the 6 credits per semester.

** Each course number has the prefix EDUC.*

What other courses do Learning Community students take?

- Common Courses (taken with other Learning Community cohorts)
 - 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?

- 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 during the 3+ year program, projecting you will have less time for other activities, and by saving for tuition costs.

How do I know when a Learning Community will start?

- New Learning Communities are announced on the COE web page in late-January/February each year.
- The application deadline is April 1st.
- The program begins with the Fall Semester in August.

What is needed 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.