

# Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership



## Lead and change educational organizations in the real world

Appalachian's Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership is designed for educational leaders in public schools, community colleges, universities, and community settings. Our objective: to equip leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to act as agents of positive change in their organizations and communities. We encourage critical thinking, analytic rigor, and creative collaboration to address the complex and interlocking challenges of our time.

### Program Overview

The Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership attracts professionals intent on making a difference. Through core leadership and research courses, students learn to apply theory to practice to make educational systems more effective, more equitable, and more sustainable. Through professionally-oriented concentrations, students gain advanced knowledge in their disciplinary specialization and prepare themselves to assume higher levels of organizational leadership.

Strengths of the program include:

- A variety of concentrations
- Professors attuned to needs of adult learners
- Cohort structure
- Access to diverse RCOE faculty
- Internship: practice/research opportunities
- Research assistantship opportunities

The Doctoral Program consists of a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the Master's degree:

- Core courses (36 credit hours)
- Elective courses (12-15 credit hours)
- Internship (3-6 credit hours)
- Dissertation (6 credit hours)

*"The doctoral program helped me develop a passion to challenge the known and explore the unknown for new discoveries. I am not only an educator; I am now an educational researcher with the responsibility to lead educational reform."*

*-Fran Bates Oates,  
Elementary Education Program Coordinator,  
Winston-Salem State University*



### The Cohort Model

The cohort model of education is central to the Doctoral Program. Through a selective admissions process, cohort members are chosen from a diverse cross-section of educational leadership settings. The cohort structure allows for the integration of educational scholarship and practice in a supportive, collegial environment. Throughout the doctoral program, students acquire skills in using research to understand organizational and social issues, with a growing capacity for leading adaptive, sustainable, and justice-oriented change.



## Concentrations

Four concentrations are available to students in the ASU Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. Students can select concentrations in Educational Administration (superintendent/principal licensure); Higher Education; Reading and Literacy; or General (interdisciplinary). Each concentration requires the same 36 credit hours of core courses in research, leadership, and professional skills and 18 credit hours of electives including internship requirements.

## Required Core Courses

EDL 7011 Multi-Disciplinary Seminar on Emerging Issues I  
 EDL 7012 Multi-Disciplinary Seminar on Emerging Issues II  
 EDL 7020 Organizational and Systems Theory  
 EDL 7025 Leadership in Organizations  
 EDL 7030 Concepts and Constructs in Curriculum & Instruction  
 EDL 7040 Educational Organizations & Technology  
 EDL 7065 Writing for the Professional Educator  
 EDL 7099 Professional Seminar – 1 credit hour (3 semesters)  
 EDL 7110 Survey of Research Methodologies in Education  
 EDL 7165 Quantitative Approaches to Non-Experimental Studies  
 EDL 7160 Qualitative Research Methods  
 EDL 7150 Inferential Statistics -OR-  
 EDL 7180 Advanced Qualitative Research  
 EDL 7900 Internship  
 EDL 7999 Dissertation (minimum of 6 semester hours)

## Positions Held by Doctoral Students

Position	Location
Instructor, Developmental Studies and Academic Success	AB Tech Community College
Developmental English & Reading Instructor	Catawba Valley Community College
Director of Accountability	Hickory Public Schools
Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Conduct	UNC-Charlotte
Secondary Education Curriculum Coordinator	Cleveland County Schools
Assistant Principal	Watauga County Schools
Director of Counseling	Mitchell Community College
Director of Programming & Outreach	Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture
K-12 Science Curriculum Specialist	Catawba County Schools

## Application Process

Cohort members are drawn from all sectors of education, with an emphasis on professionals in leadership positions in public schools, community colleges, and universities. To apply for the ASU **on-campus** cohort, applicants must hold a Master's Degree. Applications are due February 1 of each year. A completed application consists of the following:

- A completed application form submitted with application fee;
- A current curriculum vitae/resume;
- Official transcript(s) for all college credits (undergraduate and graduate) awarded;
- A letter of intent;
- Evidence of three years of appropriate professional work experience; and
- Four references from professional colleagues qualified to address your potential as a doctoral student;
- A recent Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score (within 5 years).

Applications for the 2015 **off-campus** cohort in Winston-Salem are due March 1, 2015 and applicants must have earned an Ed.S degree from Appalachian State before applying.

Beginning in 2015, Appalachian Ed.S. graduates in educational administration and higher education leadership from 2012 or later will have 30 credit hours of the doctoral program waived.

Applications are submitted online. Detailed application information can be found in Graduate Admissions: [graduate.appstate.edu](http://graduate.appstate.edu)

### Questions? We're here!

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