

ED.D. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The doctoral program (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership provides the highest professional degree available to candidates who aspire to leadership positions in Education, primarily in K-12 settings. The degree involves successful completion of a prescribed curriculum of both required and elective courses in professional studies, theory, and research methods up to a minimum of 60 hours of graduate credit. The doctoral degree is awarded upon successful completion of coursework and defense of a dissertation, which is a major independent research project carried out under the supervision of faculty advisors.

Graduates of the doctoral degree in Educational Leadership will have acquired the knowledge and skills to lead K-12 school systems and serve in a leadership and consulting capacity in diverse educational organizations. The doctoral program focuses on developing leader-scholars who are prepared to effectively lead educational organizations by (a) supporting professional development for instructional improvement; (b) applying evidence-based practices in educational research and program evaluation through research design and interpretation; and (c) advocating for sound policies that support the success of all students.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/doctorate/educational-leadership/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Admission to the doctoral program in Educational Leadership is competitive. Applicants are encouraged to submit required materials and prepare a high-quality personal statement and resume.

The Educational Leadership doctoral program utilizes a cohort model where individuals are admitted as a group or a cohort. Cohort members take their courses together. Cognates (electives) vary. Some students complete the Texas superintendent certification as their cognate area. A select number of applicants are admitted to a cohort.

Admission Deadlines

The priority deadline for cohort admission is March 15 or October 15. Priority is given to completed applications received by these dates. Applications will be accepted until the university deadline based on space availability.

To ensure full consideration for cohort admission, applicants should submit all required materials before the priority deadline.

Cohort	Classes Begin	Application Deadline
Educational Leadership (K-12)	Summer (June)	March 15: Priority Deadline
	Spring (January)	October 15: Priority Deadline

Applicants seeking admission to the doctoral program in Educational Leadership must submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-admissions/prospective-students.html>):

1. Graduate Admission Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcript(s) showing receipt of a baccalaureate and master's degrees in a related field from an accredited institution
4. Resume (describing education, work history, leadership experiences, and listing at least 3 professional references)
5. Application Essay. Not to exceed 1,000 words and thoroughly address these specific questions in an essay:
 - a) What are some highlights of your professional career?
 - b) What are some experiences that demonstrate your **leadership** strengths?
 - c) What are your professional goals and reasons for pursuing a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership (K-12) at Sam Houston State University?

Note: Applicants selected after the initial screening will be invited for an interview.

Applicants should hold a master's degree in a related field, and the student's graduate GPA should be 3.5 or higher. In addition, three years of full-time professional experience in a school or agency is preferred.

The program requires a minimum of sixty hours of graduate credit, successful passing of a comprehensive examination, and completion of a dissertation.

Code	Title	Hours
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership		
Leadership Core		
EDLD 7337	Academic Writing & Research	3
EDLD 7331	Leadership Theory/Application	3
EDLD 7111	Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership ¹	3

EDLD 7333	Societal Factors Affecting Education	3
EDLD 7370	Education Policy and Ethics	3
EDLD 7338	Organizational Behavior and Theory in Education	3
EDLD 7361	Program Evaluation in Education	3
EDLD 7332	Instructional Theory and Applications	3
or EDAD 6383	Learner Centered Leadership	
Research Tools		
EDER 7362	Methods of Education Research	3
EDER 7365	Statistical Methods	3
EDER 7374	Advanced Statistical Methods	3
EDER 7372	Qualitative Inquiry	3
EDLD 7363	Proposal Development	3
Cognate		
EDAD 6380	Executive Leadership for Superintendents	3
EDAD 6382	Human Resource Management	3
EDAD 6381	District Business and Financial Management	3
EDAD 6384	Superintendent Practicum	3
Dissertation		
EDLD 8033	Dissertation ²	9
Total Hours		60

¹ EDLD 7111 must be taken three times for a total of three hours.

² EDLD 8033 must be taken at least three times for a minimum total of nine hours. Once enrolled in this course, the student must enroll in it until graduation.

Note: The 12 hours of cognate can vary based on candidate interests and goals. Additional TEA requirements are needed to obtain a Texas Principal or Superintendent certification.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The EdD Educational Leadership degree is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Collect, analyze, and interpret data through the lens of theories and practice.
- Defend research findings to practitioners and researchers.
- Employ advanced oral and written communication skills.
- Synthesize empirical literature for research trends.
- Design, conduct, report, and share independent research projects.