Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership – District Leadership and Superintendent Concentration

The Cato College of Education at the University of North Carolina Charlotte is pleased to announce a revised, innovative and transformative program for educational leaders who desire a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Ed.D. Superintendent Concentration?

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership is an applied, professional doctoral degree designed to prepare educational administrators to assume mid-level and senior-level leadership positions in public or non-public schools. Program completers become eligible for licensure as a superintendent.

When does the program begin? When will I graduate?

Classes will begin in fall 2019. Program completion typically requires three and one-half to four years.

What are the admission requirements?

- At least three years of relevant work experience in formal school leadership
- Master’s degree in School Administration or a relevant field with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher
- “M” level licensure
- Qualifying test scores
- Completed application for graduate study at the university, including a statement of purpose essay and three recommendations
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate course work
- Completion of the entire selection process as determined by the Educational Leadership faculty

What are the components of the selection process?

In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants will participate in an interview and complete a writing sample.

How many credit hours are required to complete the Ed.D.?

The Ed.D. is a 48 credit hour program, consisting of 16 classes.
What classes are required?


How long does it take to complete the program?

3.5 to 4 years

How are classes structured?

The Ed.D. is offered as part of the UNC Charlotte distance education program. Classes will be held at Mallard Creek High School, about ten minutes from the UNC Charlotte campus. Students will report to class only one night each week (Wednesdays).

How is the program structured?

The UNCC Ed.D. District Leadership/Superintendent concentration utilizes a cohort system. This cohort remains together throughout the program.

What is the method of instructional delivery?

Classes primarily utilize a hybrid mix of face-to-face instruction, some online meetings, and some asynchronous meetings.

Are internships required?

Two internships are included. Participants complete their internships with district leaders in the school system in which they work. Participants continue working in their school district positions while completing the internships.

Is a dissertation required?

The Ed.D. program will culminate with an applied dissertation in which candidates will work collaboratively with the faculty at UNC Charlotte and local school districts to design an applied field-embedded project. Using field-embedded research, that moves theory into practice, is a key approach to addressing authentic problems of practice in school districts. Candidates will be encouraged to propose and evaluate solutions for improvements and success in school districts.

How much does it cost?

Tuition and fees are significantly reduced since the Ed.D. is part of the distance education program. Rates can be found at this link:

https://ninercentral.uncc.edu/sites/ninercentral.uncc.edu/files/media/Documents/DistanceEd_Graduate_MainCampus_Tuition_and_Fees_2018-19.pdf
How do I apply?

Apply online: https://mygradschool.uncc.edu
To learn more visit: https://edld.uncc.edu/

The deadline for priority applications is January 15, 2019. The deadline for secondary applications is March 15, 2019.

Admission decisions are competitive and are made by a departmental admissions committee. Applicants with the highest profile rankings are invited to participate in interviews designed to provide evidence of an applicant’s academic strength, leadership potential, and personal characteristics.

How can I learn more?

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Now is your chance to become a school district leader and to receive your doctorate from a national research institution.