EMU’s doctorate in educational leadership is designed to develop leaders with knowledge, skills and attitudes for helping to build learning communities within a culturally diverse society. Practicing administrators will find the program designed to support the application of educational leadership theory to meet the challenges of practice in a changing environment; the emphasis is on applied research with immediate application; and the focus on gaining insight and skills for initiating improvement within educational organizations. Courses are available on campus, off campus and in compressed weekend formats.

Career Opportunities

Designed for a master’s or specialist degree holder, EMU’s doctoral program provides collaboration through a student cohort experience and research leading to improved leadership practice in K-12 programs, higher education institutions and/or other education-related settings.

The EMU College of Education is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the Michigan Department of Education for the preparation of educational personnel.

Admission Requirements

For admission an applicant must:

1. Complete the Graduate School Application online at emich.edu/graduate/apply/.

2. **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.**

3. Have earned a valid master’s or specialist degree from an accredited university. Official transcripts must be submitted. Official electronic transcripts can be sent to transcripts_admissions@emich.edu.

4. Applicants must have a 3.3 GPA or better on either their master’s or specialist degree.

5. Complete a personal statement describing the reasons to pursue a graduate degree program in educational leadership including career and educational goals. The essay must be a minimum of 250 words and will be reviewed as an indicator of writing ability.

6. Submit a resume that reflects their professional experience and scholarly activity by detailing their professional and educational goals.

7. Submit three letters of recommendation addressing the applicant’s professional background, two of which must be from past or present supervisors. Those supervisors need to address the quality of your work and your future potential for leadership.

8. It is desirable that applicants currently hold, or formerly have held, an administrative position; or present evidence of leadership potential.

9. Scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Typically, students admitted to the doctoral program will have
scored at or above the 50th percentile on the verbal and quantitative reasoning sections of the GRE and a 4.0 on analytical writing. Given the focus of the educational leadership program on a holistic admissions approach, failure to score at this level will not necessarily exclude a person from admission if other factors indicate potential for success and are judged as superior assets by the faculty.

10. International students must meet the language requirements of the Graduate School.

The admission deadline is February 1 for admittance to the following fall semester.

Admission Process

The admission process for the degree is as follows:

1. The Office of Admissions will receive and gather ALL required documents. Materials must be sent to the Office of Admissions electronically: www.emich.edu/graduate/apply/

2. Upon receipt of the completed applications by February 1, the materials will be reviewed by the faculty of the educational leadership program. Selected applicants will be invited to a personal interview with the program faculty. Individuals will compete against the pool of applicants for admission into the cohort.

3. Following personal interviews, those candidates who have presented the greatest evidence of potential for success in the program will be selected and notified of their admission by the program coordinator. The doctoral degree program must be completed within a seven-year period.

4. Those persons whose applications are not accepted will be notified.

5. All decisions by the faculty regarding admissions are final.

Curriculum

A doctoral student’s individualized course of study is normally expected to encompass a minimum of 60 credit hours of course work beyond the master’s degree. The exact number of hours will be determined by the student’s program advisor, based on a review of previous graduate work/transcripts, the student’s professional and personal aspirations and the doctor of education degree requirements set forth by the Graduate School and the Leadership & Counseling Department. Therefore, some plans of study will have only 60 credit hours while others may include additional hours, either courses designed to remove deficiencies or enhance opportunities for leadership success, at the discretion of the program advisor.

The doctoral program of study has four components: major (educational leadership), cognate, research support, and dissertation research. The minimum number of credit hours allotted to each component are: Major (27 hours), Cognate (10 hours), Research Support (12 hours), and Dissertation Research (13 hours).

Major (Educational Leadership) (27 hours)
EDLD 710 Leadership Theory (3)
EDLD 714 Data-Driven Decsn Mgt for Ed Leaders (3)
EDLD 740 Advanced Organizational Theory (3)
EDLD 810 Ethics & Policy Analysis for Ed. Ldrs. (3)
EDLD 820 The Politics of Educational Leadership (3)
12 hours of electives in consultation with an advisor

Cognate Courses (10 hours)
The cognate specialization is developed through completion of a sequence of related courses designed to add depth to the student’s doctoral program. Students select courses in consultation with their graduate advisor.

Research Support Courses (12 hours)
EDST 805 Quantitative Research Methods (3)
EDST 806 Qualitative Research Methods (3)
EDLD 812 Dissertation Research Seminar I (3)
EDLD 893 Dissertation Research Seminar II (3)
The research support component of the doctoral program is designed to enable the student to develop competence in research, design, analysis and the use of research tools.
**Dissertation Research (13 hours)**

EDLD 894 Advanced Study in Ed. Leadership (3)
EDLD 895 Dissertation Research Seminar (2)
EDLD 896 Dissertation Research (1)
EDLD 897 Dissertation Research (2)
EDLD 898 Dissertation Research (4)
EDLD 899 Dissertation Research (8)

Each student in the doctor of education program will be required to complete a dissertation, a document representing an original research effort. The dissertation will focus on an area of particular interest to the student and the dissertation chair. The student must register for a minimum of 13 credit hours of dissertation research, including the dissertation seminar for more information, see the Doctoral Handbook for details: emich.edu/coe/lc/resources

**Comprehensive Qualifying Examination**

When students have completed all doctoral coursework, with the exception of dissertation research, they are required to complete the comprehensive qualifying examination. The purpose of this examination is to determine the student’s subject mastery of the concepts, literature base and research; and knowledge of problems and issues in the major field (educational leadership) and the cognate area of study. See the Doctoral Handbook for details: emich.edu/coe/lc/resources

**Advisor Information**

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Department Head
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**Additional Department Information**

Information regarding the following can be found on the department website:

- Doctoral Fellowships
- Residency Requirements
- Course Substitutions / Program Changes
- Courses Outside the Program
- Internships

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