EDUCATION (ONLINE), EDD

To address the dramatically changing landscape of education in the 21st century, which includes new research on the science of learning, advances in technology, and the emergence of a for-profit education sector, the Johns Hopkins School of Education offers an innovative online Doctor of Education degree program. This EdD program is designed to prepare an exceptional corps of educational practitioner-scholars, both nationally and internationally, who can set a high standard for transformational leadership in education, apply evidence-based practices to improve educational outcomes, and meet the vast challenges associated with improving learning outcomes in both public and private educational environments.

For the most up-to-date information about the EdD program, please visit https://education.jhu.edu/academics/edd/. If you have any questions about the EdD program, please contact soe.edd@jhu.edu.

Admission Requirements

At minimum, applicants to the EdD program should hold a master’s degree from an accredited college or university. Previous degrees must document high academic achievement (a minimum GPA of 3.0) in an area of study closely associated with the objectives of the program. If the earned degree or credit is from an educational institution abroad, the candidate’s academic record must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency before consideration for admission. Applicants must submit the online admission application form, application fee, official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended, a curriculum vitae (résumé), online interview, and two letters of recommendations signed by the recommender. These letters should include the following:

1. A professor with whom the applicant worked in their master’s program or an individual from their professional context who can speak to the applicant’s competency to conduct rigorous scholarly work, and
2. A colleague/supervisor from the applicant’s professional context who can attest to:
   a. the applicant’s qualifications to pursue a doctorate,
   b. the applicant’s impact on their professional practice, and
   c. knowledge of and support for the applicant’s area of research/Problem of Practice.

District support for the applicant’s research within their context of professional practice is an important component of the admission process. Additionally, applicants will submit a personal statement including responses to the following:

- Describe a significant Problem of Practice relevant to your current context of professional practice.
- Indicate the importance of this problem within the educational landscape as well as the candidate’s context of professional practice.
- Discuss the potential underlying causes for or contributing factors related to this Problem of Practice.
- Discuss the ways in which this problem aligns with one chosen area of interest.

All applicants who meet the entrance requirements will be asked to submit video and written responses to question prompts.

International students must fulfill the general requirements for admission and complete additional requirements—see https://education.jhu.edu/admission-financial-aid/admissions/international-applicants/.

Note: This program is not eligible for student visa sponsorship.

Students who enter the program are expected to possess an understanding of introductory research methods topics and will be required to successfully complete a series of pre-orientation modules prior to enrollment in the program. All students are expected to show competence in the content areas of these modules.

Please note that for the online EdD program, an offer of admission is for the specific cohort to which an application is submitted. Students may accept or decline the admission offer only; deferring to a future cohort is not an option.

Program Requirements

Program Structure and Requirements

Program requirements include a minimum of 90 graduate credits. Students must enter the program with a master’s degree with a minimum of 36 graduate-level credits, which will be transferred into the EdD program. If a student does not have the required 36 master’s credits, the student will be admitted on a conditional basis and must complete the additional graduate-level credits at an accredited college or university. Students with post-master’s graduate credit in related education content completed prior to admission to the EdD program may petition to transfer an additional six credits of equivalent coursework with appropriate documentation and with the approval of the EdD program director. Thus, students must complete between 48 and 54 credits at the doctoral level at JHU. The program includes the following required coursework components (subject to change):

- Foundations of Education/Applied Research and Evaluation (24 credit hours)
- Areas of Interest (18 elective credit hours)
- Doctoral Dossier Research (12 credit hours)*

In addition to successfully completing all the coursework requirements, candidates must also satisfy written assessments and an oral comprehensive examination that document attainment of competencies and a Doctoral Dossier research project.

*Students who extend their program of study may be required to enroll in additional independent study credits.

Problems of Practice and Doctoral Dossier

Students examine a Problem of Practice (POP), which is an area of concern they have observed within their professional context. This POP becomes the focus of the student’s Doctoral Dossier. The Doctoral Dossier is embedded within the EdD program coursework, which provides students with a unique opportunity to examine an issue important to the organization in which they are employed. Students will demonstrate mastery of first- and second-year competencies through written and oral comprehensive assessments, which will serve as indicators of readiness for conducting their Doctoral Dossier projects.

To begin their Doctoral Dossier process, students will conduct a literature review and systems and stakeholder analyses to be documented in an introductory narrative. This narrative provides the rationale and supporting evidence for the student’s decisions to pursue their research topic and their Scholarship of Discovery project, wherein students...
conduct evidence-based research that leads to knowledge creation. Upon completion of the Scholarship of Discovery project, students will then choose one of two projects to serve as their second and final project:

1) Scholarship of Application: Demonstrate the application of the research to practice. The purpose of this project is to a) consider how the research perpetuates and/or disrupts oppression, b) critique relevant systems, structures, and institutions, and c) determine avenues to effectively disseminate evidence to a wider audience and stakeholder group.

2) Scholarship of Integration: Articulate insights from existing literature. The purpose includes interpretation and/or identifying and articulating the patterns in which this and others’ research fits. Students will present an overview of findings and identify ways to synthesize findings from different disciplines to see areas of convergence and divergence. Trends and new ways of seeing knowledge should be articulated.

Upon completion of their final project, students will create a final reflection, tying all aspects of their narrative and two projects together. The Doctoral Dossier will be presented at a final oral defense before a Doctoral Dossier Panel.

As part of our commitment to social justice, the EdD program does not privilege one form of communication over another. Thus, all components of the Doctoral Dossier can be communicated in a modality of the student’s choosing: video, oral, scholarly writing, or public-facing writing.

Typically, we expect that students would complete four years of coursework and independent research concurrently. It is possible that some students may need more than four years to complete their research, in which case they will be required to enroll in at least one credit hour per semester after completion of the required 90 credit hours.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Program Goals**

Upon successful completion of the EdD, we expect that graduates will:

- Participate as a self-reflexive, social justice-oriented learner within diverse educational or learning communities.
- Analyze and critique educational practice and research from a social justice and systems perspective.
- Apply relevant methodologies to address critical challenges in education.
- Demonstrate a curiosity for, and a systematic approach to, at least one major topic of study within education resulting in an emerging expertise.
- Integrate research and practice-based knowledge to develop research-informed decisions and opinions about educational experiences, processes, policies, and institutions.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences about educational research, experiences, processes, policies, and institutions.