A doctoral degree is the highest professional degree given in higher education. Potential students should be aware that the course work, reading assignments, and research expectations in a doctoral program are extremely demanding. For every three-credit class, six-to-eight hours of out-of-class study a week may be expected. Thus, a typical semester of doctoral work would require 18 to 20 hours a week of your time.

The Educational Leadership doctorate is designed for working professionals. The program faculty work hard to schedule coursework in ways that respect students’ working lives. At the same time, it is important for students to be able to fully participate in all coursework. Applicants for the EdD in Educational Leadership must make appropriate arrangements to ensure class attendance during fall, spring and summer sessions. Doctoral core courses will begin early evening Friday and end early evening on Saturday.

Once course work is finished, students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination and present a written dissertation proposal to a faculty committee. When the comprehensive exam is passed and the doctoral committee approves the proposal, the candidate may begin dissertation work.

Dissertation research makes a substantial, original contribution to knowledge in the discipline being studied. Students are encouraged to pursue research with real-world application as well as long-term implications for quality education in their communities and the wider world.

Please do not take these questions lightly. The program will be academically rigorous.

The EdD provides a unique opportunity to develop content and research expertise. However, there are important questions you should ask yourself before pursuing this degree.

1. Am I committed to developing research competency?
2. Is perseverance one of my core strengths?
3. Can I develop and complete projects in a reasonable length of time without procrastinating?
4. Can I wholeheartedly commit the time necessary to be successful in this program?
5. Will I be able to balance the demands of my professional position and family responsibilities with those of the doctoral program?
6. Is there a high probability that I can complete the scheduled program? The EdD is a lockstep cohort program with a set sequence of courses.

I declare that I have read the above information, reflected on all the questions, and I would like to apply to the EdD program with full knowledge of the commitment I am making.

Name __________________________________________ Signature ____________________________ Date ____________
(print)