

# Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Leadership



**SHENANDOAH**<sup>®</sup>  
UNIVERSITY  
Division of Education & Leadership

A Part-time, Four-Year Doctoral Program (Minimum 62 credit hours)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Leadership program is designed to serve full-time working professionals with career goals in a wide range of organizations such as PK-12, higher education, and other research-based institutions (e.g., policy centers, think tanks, education associations). PhD learners work closely with faculty and peers to think deeply, examine critically, and understand theoretically the opportunities and challenges facing educational organizations and related institutions.

Defining program features are

- Low-residency delivery model
- Cohort learning
- Faculty research mentoring
- Global learning opportunities

Our program offers two concentrations: Initial Administrative Licensure or Leadership in Education (non-licensure PreK-12 and postsecondary). A minimum of 62 credits is required. The program is organized around an interdisciplinary leadership and research core that is complemented by the learner's chosen concentration.

## PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Master's degree with a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Unofficial transcripts for initial admission from all institutions of higher education previously attended
- Three letters of recommendation: one from an immediate supervisor, at least one from someone able to address the candidate's academic abilities, and at least one from a professional who knows the applicant's ability in the chosen concentration
- One (1) page resume
- Essay addressing the candidate's motivation and goals while in the PhD program (no more than 3 double-spaced pages)
- Interview with the PhD in Educational Leadership Program Coordinator (applicant should contact and schedule)
- Language proficiency requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

## TRANSFER CREDITS

The Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership is a minimum 62-credit degree. Up to 15 transfer credits are permitted. Transfer credits are approved in consultation with the PhD in Educational Leadership program coordinator and academic advisor. Students may only use graduate courses taken at a regionally accredited institution as possible transfer credit. Only grades of "A" or "B" are transferable. With approval from the PhD program coordinator, students may substitute graduate courses for courses in the doctoral program. However, additional courses may be required to create a viable degree program.

## ADMISSION & APPLICATION

### Start Term

Fall (August) 2025

### Admission Deadline

Priority Deadline: April 15

### Format/Location

Low Residency: Combination of selected Saturday in-person classes (Winchester or Loudoun campuses) and weekday Zoom classes in the evening.

### How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to [www.su.edu/sehdapp](http://www.su.edu/sehdapp)

### Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at [www.naces.org](http://www.naces.org) and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

*Please note: visa-seeking F-1 international students cannot receive visa documentation for this program due to its part-time nature.*

### Contact Us

Dr. Sarah R. Daniel, Associate Professor  
Department Chair Leadership Studies  
PhD in Educational Leadership Program  
Coordinator  
[sdaniel@su.edu](mailto:sdaniel@su.edu)

Office of Graduate Admissions  
[SUGradAdmissions@su.edu](mailto:SUGradAdmissions@su.edu)  
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

Office of Financial Aid  
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/finaid@su.edu> | call: 540-665-4538

Tuition for 2025-2026  
\$475 per credit



**Dr. Sarah R. Daniel**  
 PhD in Educational Leadership Program  
 Coordinator

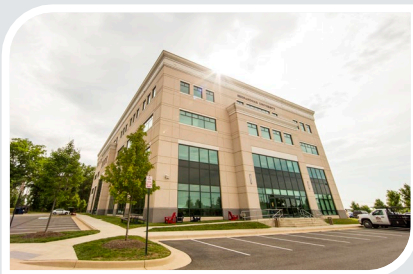
**CAMPUS LOCATIONS**



**Winchester Main Campus**  
 1460 University Drive  
 Winchester, VA 22601



**James L. Bowman Building**  
 20 South Cameron Street  
 Winchester, Virginia 22601



**SU Loudoun**  
 44160 Scholar Plaza Suite 100  
 Leesburg, Virginia 20176

**CURRICULUM**

The degree requirement is a minimum of 62 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Program Core</b>		
LST 710	Leadership: Theory & Application	3
LST 720	Societal Factors: Influences on Policy, Programs, and Practice	3
LST 735	Organizational Theory & Behavior	3
LST 740	Governance & Public Policy	3
LST 626	Change in Public Sector & Nonprofit Organizations	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

<b>Research Core</b>		
RST 765	Foundations of Doctoral Research	3
RST 775	Quantitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 776	Advanced Quantitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 784	Qualitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 785	Advanced Qualitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 766	Writing in the Literature	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>

<b>Applied Research</b>		
RST 790	Quantitative/Qualitative - Proposal	2
RST 791	Quantitative/Qualitative - Pilot	2
RST 798	Directed Graduate Research	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

<b>Dissertation*</b>		
RST 799	Dissertation (minimum)	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

\*Students who do not complete the dissertation after earning 15 credits of RST 799 will be required to remain continuously enrolled in RST 799 (one credit hour each term) until the dissertation is completed.

**Concentrations (choose one):**

**Leadership in Education (non-licensure PreK-12 and postsecondary)**

Nine graduate- or doctoral-level credits related to study in a subfield of educational leadership will comprise a concentration in education leadership. Guidelines for concentrations are commonly accepted field/profession/discipline knowledge areas relevant to the student's professional and/or academic objectives and are determined jointly by the student and the academic advisor.

**Total** **9**

**Initial Administrative Licensure**

Graduates who complete this concentration in conjunction with the required program core and research courses outlined above as well as the coursework below will have completed an approved program for licensure in PreK-12 Administration and Supervision. To qualify for a permanent (five-year) endorsement through the Virginia Department of Education, graduates must successfully complete a beginning administration and supervision assessment as prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education, have three years teaching experience, and hold a valid teaching license.

ADM 623	School Law	3
ADM 624	School Finance	3
ADM 640	Curriculum Development & Evaluation	3
ADM 641	Supervision & Evaluation of Instruction	3
ADM626	Practicum in Educational Leadership	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

**Program** **Total 62-68**