

# Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership



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

A Part-time, Three-Year Doctoral Program (Minimum 50 credit hours)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Advanced study in the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership program is designed to serve learners with career goals related to PreK-12 and higher education leadership. The program is student-centered, inquiry-driven, and problem-oriented with an emphasis on the application of theory to real-world problems. Learners think deeply, examine critically, and understand theoretically the challenges facing schools, higher education, and related organizations. The EdD program offers two concentrations: Initial Administrative Licensure or Leadership in Education (non-licensure PreK-12 and postsecondary). A minimum of 50 credits is required in this program of study. 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 applicant's motivation and goals while in the EdD program (no more than 3 double-spaced pages)
- Interview with the EdD Program Coordinator (applicant should contact and schedule)
- Applicants seeking Virginia Department of Education endorsement(s) must possess a current teacher's license valid in any U.S. state, a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, two years of teaching experience, and access to schools
- Language proficiency requirements 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 EdD Program is a minimum 50 credit degree. With approval from the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and the faculty of the Division of Education & Leadership, students may substitute up to 15 approved graduate credits from a regionally accredited institution if these courses were not counted toward a previously earned degree. However, additional courses may be required to create a viable degree program. Applicants needing foundational coursework will be advised of the necessity before they will be permitted to take advanced level coursework.
- Only grades of "A" or "B" are transferable

## 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. Catherine Dunn Shiffman  
Professor of Leadership Studies  
EdD Program Coordinator  
[cshiffma@su.edu](mailto:cshiffma@su.edu) | (540) 535-3542

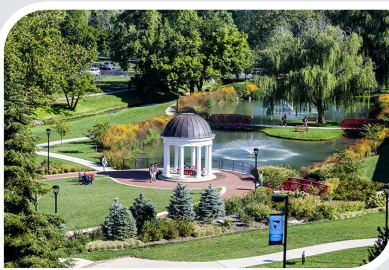
Office of Graduate Admissions  
[SUGradAdmissions@su.edu](mailto:SUGradAdmissions@su.edu)  
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-401-5709

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



Dr. Catherine Dunn Shiffman  
EdD 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 50 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>

Research Core		
RST 765	Foundations of Doctoral Research	3
RST 766	Writing in the Literature	1
RST 775	Quantitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
RST 784	Qualitative Methods for Doctoral Research	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

Applied Research		
RST 790	Qualitative and Quantitative Proposal	2
RST 791	Qualitative and Quantitative Pilot	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

Scholarly Practitioner (choose one)		
RST 670	Improvement Science in Organizations (3)	
RST 676	Survey Design and Analysis (3)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

Global Experiential Learning (choose one)		
EDU 646	International Education (3)	
LST 675	Experiential Learning in Organizational Leadership (3)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

Dissertation*		
RST 799	Dissertation (minimum)	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

\*Students who do not complete the dissertation after earning 9 credits of RST 799 will be required to remain continuously enrolled in RST 799 (one credit hour each fall and spring semester) until the dissertation is completed.

### Concentrations (choose one):

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

Six graduate- or doctoral-level credits related to study in a subfield of educational leadership will comprise a concentration in PreK-12 education (not leading to licensure) or in postsecondary education leadership (non-academic roles, e.g.: student life, student support services). 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** 6

#### 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** 50-59