



THE ED.D. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
AT CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

P-12 EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I apply and hope to get started?

Blended P-20 cohort (P-12 Educational Leadership & Higher Education Administration)

Students may pursue either concentration within the same cohort.

Applications are due **November 1, 2021**. Cohort courses will begin in Summer 2022.

A cohort and program orientation will be held in Spring 2022.

P-12 Educational Leadership

Cohort for P-12 concentration only.

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What's the bottom line: What will my doctoral program cost?

Course fees are subject to change. For the 2020-2021 academic year, doctoral students paid \$979 per credit hour, plus a \$65 registration fee each term of registration. A tuition calculator is available at:

<http://www.ccsu.edu/bursar/tuitionPartTime.html>.

A student entering with a master's degree alone would enroll in a minimum of 63 credits during the required three years and four summers of study. A student who already holds a Sixth Year certificate (P-12) or other applicable credits beyond the master's degree, and who is certified as a school administrator, is typically approved to apply as many as 15 credits from previous coursework toward the degree, reducing the total credits to 48. Books, technology, and other resources to meet your needs as a doctoral student will add to the bottom line.

Can I get financial aid?

Federal loans are available for those who are eligible. Submit a FAFSA and request that CCSU receives the information. Because our program is designed for mid-career educators and staff who work full-time, we do not offer doctoral fellowships or assistantships. Also, because our students are typically working, they do not qualify for government grants. If a student enters with outstanding student loans, they may defer repayment during doctoral studies. The Graduate Student Association has funding for research grants and professional development/conference travel (available funds will vary). These grants are competitively awarded. A student may receive one grant per year, and a maximum of three over the course of doctoral study. Several limited departmental scholarship opportunities are also available annually.

If I am a P-12 educator can I get reimbursed by my district?

This depends on your district. Consult with your human resources or personnel department prior to making a commitment to the program if this is a concern for you. Many educators do receive reimbursement from their district, as they would for other degrees or certificates. Beginning with the first dissertation course, we do begin to assign *In Progress*, or IP grades, for all credits. These revert to letter grades upon completion of the dissertation proposal, final dissertation defense, and required dissemination activities. From time to time, districts express a preference for letter grades to provide reimbursement. We will communicate with your district and explain our policy, and this typically works. However, we cannot guarantee your reimbursements. So, check with your district first.

If I, or a spouse, work within the CSCU system am I eligible for a tuition benefit?

Check with the HR department of your home institution. The program and department do not process tuition waivers or know the specifics or your potential benefits. Human Resources at the home institution is the best source of information.

What about time commitments?

Our program is designed to require a *minimum* of three full years and an additional, fourth summer. The program is designed so that you should be able to complete in four years or less.

P-12 Educational Leadership cohorts (starting in odd numbered years)

“Residencies” totaling 8 credits each of the first two summers meet primarily in July. They are intensive weekday courses and require a full-time commitment from students. Blended learning formats are used for all courses. Core classes meet each Wednesday of the fall and spring semester from 4:30-7:10pm and sometimes online. Additional courses depend on credits applied to the program. Students needing to fulfill specialization requirements will enroll in an additional course each semester the first two years. These are usually on Wednesday evenings immediately following the earlier course. Note: Students must maintain a minimum of 4.5 credits hours during the first two years to be eligible for federal loans; hence the partial credit hours.

Blended cohort (2022; P-12 Educational Leadership & Higher Education Administration)

The schedule for this option is still under development but will consist of all evening and online course meetings. Summer courses will be distributed across the months of June and July. Fall and Spring weekday core courses will meet on Thursdays. Additional courses will depend on each student's unique needs. Note: Students must maintain a minimum of 4.5 credits hours during the first two years to be eligible for federal loans; hence the partial credit hours.

An additional requirement for all students during the second year is the preparation of a leadership portfolio in lieu of a written comprehensive examination. This is completed as a formal course requirement during the Spring semester of the second year. The third summer, third academic year, and fourth summer are devoted primarily to dissertation research and writing. There is one final course during the 3rd or 4th year designed to support students in disseminating their dissertation research, which is a requirement of the program. Also, some students do not finish in the minimum amount of time and must continue to register for two credit hours of dissertation research each term (fall, spring, and summer) until they do finish.

A lot of work? Yes, but our current cohort members and graduates are going to tell you that it is well worth the effort!

What is the difference between a Ph.D. and an Ed.D.?

This is a tough question, and the answer will be different depending on who you talking to. CCSU's Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in Educational Leadership is oriented toward practice. Our students also typically work full-time, and our most intense periods of on-campus study occur during the summer. We expect our students to apply what they are learning to improving their organizations, and the bulk of our project requirements are field-based. Dissertations also focus on questions of interest to practitioners in the field and are intended to contribute directly to the improvement of educational practice.

Traditionally, the Ph.D. required a period of full-time study (called "residency") and emphasized the development of knowledge and skills sufficient to support original research, with an orientation toward the development and validation of theories. Ed.D. programs are more likely to be oriented toward practice; like ours, they are typically designed to permit full-time professionals to continue their employment while working toward their degrees. Scholarly research skills are a focus but always in the service of applied use to improve practice.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores:

The GRE is the standardized test most typically used in the graduate admissions process. Be assured that we consider each piece of evidence. Ultimately, however, we make a holistic judgment about your ability to complete a doctoral program successfully and your potential for making meaningful contributions to the doctoral cohort.

In terms of the GRE, all aspects of the General Test – verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing – can be linked to skills and abilities that are essential for success in doctoral study. Please note that you may submit scores that are up to five years old, but whatever you submit must include a writing assessment. For further information about the GREs, visit <https://www.ets.org/gre/>.

What is the best way to communicate with the doctoral program about my interests and needs?

Email is the best way to reach out and remain in contact with the program administrators. More information is available from **Dr. Sheldon Watson, Ed.D. Director** (watsonshl@ccsu.edu). He is also available to meet with students by appointment. Pre-admission advising is available from Dr. Watson. Program secretary **Rouzan Kheranian** is also available for information at kheranianr@ccsu.edu and at 860-832-2152. Our offices can be found on the third floor of Carroll Hall (304 and 306). However, reach out to us first as we are not currently maintaining regular physical office hours on campus.

How will I know if you received my application and that everything is in order?

Our School of Graduate Studies will provide official communications about your application. However, you will also hear from **Rouzan Kheranian**, secretary to the doctoral program. She will be happy to assist you and answer your questions. Once students are admitted, she solves problems and assists with communications. Contact her at kheranianr@ccsu.edu or by calling 860-832-2152.

Will I get admitted? What are the cohorts like?

The first step is to have everything in by the required deadline. Our cohorts include highly qualified doctoral candidates and admission is typically competitive. Not all qualified applicants will necessarily be admitted. Some students are relatively early in their careers; others are veterans. In the P-12 strand we have both teachers and administrators. In Higher Education we have students from a broad diversity of administrative specializations and institution types.

What will YOU contribute to a CCSU doctoral cohort? That is the question to ask yourself, because that is the question the admissions committee members will be thinking about as they review your application. Are you ready to make the time commitment to doctoral study that is required and the on-going responsibilities (including courses and field-based projects) throughout the year? If you are, and you have clear goals, something to contribute to our learning community, and the capacity for leadership to *transform* Connecticut's educational system, then YOU are the doctoral student we seek.

For further information including links to application forms, go to

<http://www.ccsu.edu/EdD-PK12/>

<https://www.ccsu.edu/EdD-HigherEducation/>