



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Educational Leadership & Policy
Online Ed.D. Program

Student Handbook

A guide to doctoral requirements for students in Educational Leadership and Policy within the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Florida State University

2022-23

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The policies identified in this document are to be construed in light of existing University policies and with deference to the requirements imposed on graduate education by the College of Education, University, the Board of Trustees of Florida State University, and the Governing Board of the State University System of Florida. The information outlined is subject to change and students should be alert to announced revisions required by the faculty of the program, the department, College and University.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Mission | 3 |
| Program Overview | 3 |
| Application | 3 |
| Admission | 4 |
| Major..... | 4 |
| Financial Assistance | 5 |
| Annual Reviews..... | 5 |
| Academic Advisor | 5 |
| Diagnostic Examination..... | 5 |
| Preliminary Exam | 7 |
| Year 1: Foundations | 9 |
| Year 2: Policy Context..... | 9 |
| Year 3: Original Research in Practice..... | 9 |
| Transfer of Courses..... | 10 |
| Continuous Enrollment | 10 |
| Major Professor | 11 |
| Supervisory Committee | 11 |
| Program of Study..... | 11 |
| Summer Institute..... | 12 |
| Dissertation Credits | 12 |
| Dissertation in Practice | 12 |
| Dissertation in Practice Defense..... | 14 |
| Satisfactory Progress | 14 |
| Dissertation Hours Grading | 15 |
| Time Limit for Completion of Degree..... | 15 |
| Graduation | 16 |
| Academic Honor Policy..... | 16 |
| Academic Honor Policy | 16 |
| Responsibility | 17 |
| Grade Appeals | 17 |
| Appendix A..... | 19 |
| Online Ed.D. Program Checklist..... | 19 |
| Appendix B | 20 |
| Program of Study - Doctoral Degree..... | 20 |
| Appendix C..... | 24 |
| Incomplete Grade Agreement | 24 |
| Appendix D..... | 25 |
| Doctoral Preliminary Exam Results Form | 25 |
| Appendix E..... | 26 |
| Admissions to Candidacy Form | 26 |
| Appendix F | 27 |
| Scholarly Engagement Policy | 27 |
| Appendix G..... | 28 |
| Graduate School Preliminary Exam Policy..... | 28 |

Mission

The Educational Leadership and Policy Program aspires to be a world leader in the promotion of social progress and educational advancement through cutting-edge research, both pure and applied, and challenging graduate-level instruction which addresses questions of educational policy as they affect our communities at the local, state, national and international levels. We value a culture of academic freedom, intellectual curiosity, open communication, and academic rigor as well as the institutional supports necessary to sustain such a culture.

The Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies has been a member of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) since 2010 and the FSU Online Ed.D. program is recognized by CPED as an “experienced” program. The program was developed according to the CPED Guiding Principles of Design and driven [by CPED’s 6 core values](#):

- **Diversity:** We value every learner and the different perspectives, skills, histories, and voices of members of diverse communities.
- **Learning:** We value continuous improvement, growth, practical application of knowledge, and inquiry.
- **Partnership:** We value solving authentic and critical problems of practice in partnership with others.
- **People:** We value the professional expertise and lived experiences of every educational professional.
- **Social Justice:** We value ethical, just, and inclusive practices.
- **Students First:** We value the success of every student.

Program Overview

The Online Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy is designed for individuals who seek preparation for such positions as senior-level educational leaders, policymakers, and policy researchers both domestically and internationally. The degree program includes a broad curriculum, encompassing the departmental core of courses, an interdisciplinary component, a research component, and a major area related to Educational Leadership and Administration (EDA).

Please note: the online Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies **does not provide professional certification in Educational Leadership**. If you are interested in our state approved program for professional certification in Educational Leadership, please consider the Educational Leadership Specialist Degree Program.

Application

If a prospective student aspires to join our intellectual community, the following materials need to be submitted with the online application available through the Office of Graduate Admissions (<https://admissions.fsu.edu/gradapp/>):

- Purpose & Research Statement: Applicants should write a brief essay (roughly 1,000 words) in which they highlight their work as a practitioner, explain their decision to pursue an EdD at FSU, and outline a potential problem(s) of practice that they would like to examine as part of their Dissertation in Practice. Problems should be situated in their local context and connected to broader issues or problems related to educational leadership, administration, or policy.
- GRE scores (GRE waiver option available)
- If an international student, a TOEFL/IELTS score
- Undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
- Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be academic references

Admission

Admission is governed by requirements stated in the “Admissions” chapter of the *Graduate Bulletin*, and by standards adopted by the program. It is expected that successful applicants will possess a Master’s degree from an accredited institution with a 3.5 GPA on a four-point scale (or equivalent).

In addition to the grade point average requirement, successful applicants may also submit GRE scores, though GRE scores may be waived for outstanding applicants meeting specific criteria (see program admissions website for additional details). For international students, a TOEFL score of 550 for paper based test, Internet based TOEFL score of 80, or an IELTS score of 6.5 or better is required in addition to the GRE scores. All TOEFL or IELTS scores must be within a recent two-year period.

Please note that the online doctoral program is highly selective and enrollment is limited on a yearly basis. Meeting minimum requirements is no guarantee of admission. Other factors that are central to the admissions decision include, but are not limited to, leadership, policy and/or international experience in education or related areas, relevant work experience, high motivation to achieve personal and professional goals consistent with the program’s mission, and outstanding written and oral communication skills. The admissions process is intended to establish a culturally diverse learning community that will promote a culture of critical inquiry and encourage educational transformation and change.

Particularly as this is an online program, all admitted students need to confirm that they will have regular access to a computer, video camera, microphone, and internet access. Students are expected to check their FSU email and course sites in Canvas, including the EdD Student Portal site, frequently.

Major

The Program of Educational Leadership and Policy offers one major for the online EdD:

Educational Leadership/Administration (EDA)

Upon application for admission to the program, the student should identify a disciplinary/methodological approach closely aligned with her or his interests and professional development goals.

Financial Assistance

Graduate assistantships are not available to online Ed.D. doctoral students. The following link will provide you with more information on financial assistance:

<http://www.gradschool.fsu.edu/funding-awards>

Go to the following website for additional information on College of Education scholarships:

<http://education.fsu.edu/scholarships>

Annual Reviews

Each year the student's temporary advisor or major professor will assess the progress of the student in writing and the department will provide their assessment to the student, the department chair and the academic dean. A component of the annual review is the scholarly engagement requirement; more details on this process can be found on the EdD Student Portal in Canvas and in *Appendix F*.

Academic Advisor

After admission, the student will be assigned a temporary academic advisor to assist them in developing an initial program of study and counsel them on degree requirements. This role will ultimately be assumed by the major professor during Year 2. A checklist of key program milestones as well as professional development activities is provided in *Appendix A*. The program of study form is available on the College of Education's Office of Academic Services & Intern Support – Graduate Support website <https://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students> and is also provided in *Appendix B*.

Diagnostic Examination

Every student who has been admitted to work toward a doctoral degree within the department must, by the 6th week of the second semester after enrollment, complete a departmentally administered diagnostic examination. The purpose of the **Diagnostic Exam** is to assess a doctoral student's ability to clearly articulate a problem of practice, describe its manifestation in their local context, and receive feedback from the ELPS faculty on their work. A problem of practice should be just that: a problem that affects, shapes, or influences a student's practice in an educational setting. Crafting a problem statement and explaining its significance is one of the first steps in developing the Dissertation in Practice (DiP), the culminating project of the Online EdD.

The Diagnostic Exam is the first major milestone in the FSU Online EdD program. Students will complete the Diagnostic Exam in the first fall of their first year the during Foundations of Practice Models course. The Diagnostic Exam will consist of the following:

1. **A written manuscript** (~1,000-1,500 words, or 5-7 pages, not including references) that describes a problem of practice (the problem statement), explains the existence of that problem within a local context (the description of the student's local context), and outlines a potential path forward for conducting original research related to that problem of practice and explains the possible significance of that research.
2. **A summary of challenges** (~1 page), in which the student discusses potential concerns, unanswered questions, uncertainties or unknowns, or feasibility issues related to the problem of practice and potential research. The summary might include a discussion of problems with data access, ethical concerns, job-related uncertainties, or a reflection on the student's own knowledge and areas where they might need additional guidance and support.
3. **A virtual defense** (~15 minutes) to be conducted with the advising team via Zoom. The purpose of the virtual defense is **formative**, for students to receive constructive feedback from their advising team on next steps and considerations on the purpose, relevance, and potential design of their future Dissertation in Practice (DiP).

Additional details on each of these components can be found in the Dissertation in Practice Guide.

Upon completion of the Diagnostic Exam defense, students will receive written feedback from their advising team based on the criteria outlined in the Diagnostic Exam Instructions document. Advising Teams will issue a **PASS, CONDITIONAL CONTINUANCE, or FAIL** determination on the student's Diagnostic Exam submission.

A **FAIL** on the first attempt is awarded in the case of plagiarism or academic honor violations, or a submission that is unresponsive to the Exam prompts and does not adhere to the Exam guidelines.

If a student receives a **CONDITIONAL CONTINUANCE** on their first attempt, they will have 4 weeks to resubmit their revised Diagnostic Exam to their Advising Team. Upon resubmission, the advising team will review their manuscript and issue a determination of **PASS** or **FAIL**. If a student receives a **FAIL** on their resubmission, they may attempt the Diagnostic Exam a second time in the Spring semester of Year 1. Completed manuscripts for a second attempt will be due to the Director and the student's Advising Team by the end of the 2nd week of the Spring semester.

The Director of the Online EdD program will coordinate a second attempt, should that be necessary. **If a student does not receive a PASS on their second Diagnostic Exam attempt, they will not be allowed to continue in the program.**

Preliminary Exam

Every student who has been admitted to work toward a doctoral degree within the department must pass the preliminary exam in order to advance to doctoral candidacy. Per FSU Graduate School policy: *the preliminary examination is designed to test scholarly competence and knowledge and to afford the examiners the basis for constructive recommendations concerning the student's subsequent formal or informal study.* Specific to the Online EdD program, the preliminary examination serves as an evaluation of whether a student has mastered the relevant subject area knowledge and is ready to pursue independent research on the DiP.

The full Graduate School preliminary exam policy is available in *Appendix G*. Please note that the most up-to-date policy is [available online in the Graduate Bulletin](#).

A. Evaluation

Faculty members on the full DiP committee will evaluate the degree to which students adequately address the required elements of the Dissertation in Practice and present a clear and feasible path forward for completing the research. DiP committee members will review components (1) – (4) prior to meeting synchronously with the student to conduct component (5).

Students will either receive a *pass* or *fail* on their first attempt of their Preliminary Exam. The full DiP committee, led by the major professor, has final discretion on the status of a student's Preliminary Exam. With the support of their major professor, students may submit a formal appeal to delay their preliminary exam by one semester. All delay appeals must be submitted by the end of the 11th Week of the spring semester and will be reviewed by the program Director and the Associate Chair of ELPS.

If a student fails the preliminary examination before being admitted to candidacy, then the student is ineligible to continue in the program unless a re-examination of the preliminary examination is offered by the student's supervisory committee. For students who are eligible to retake their Preliminary Exam during the summer semester, all revised materials must be submitted to their full DiP Committee by June 15th. Students will then receive a pass or fail on their second attempt. Students can take the preliminary examination for admission to candidacy a maximum of two times. A second failure on the preliminary exam makes the student ineligible to continue in the degree program. The second attempt at the preliminary exam shall occur no sooner than six full class weeks after the results of the first attempt are shared with the student.

Students receiving a *pass* may still be required to revise DiP Chapters 1-3 based on committee feedback. Students will not be able to begin conducting DiP research until a passing grade is received on the Preliminary Exam defense, and IRB approval has been obtained.

B. Preliminary Exam Content & Format

There are five components to the Preliminary Exam:

1. A full draft of Chapters 1-3 of the DiP

2. A pre-recorded presentation (10-15 minutes) summarizing Chapters 1-2 and highlighting the major components of DiP Chapter 3
3. Any associated materials to be submitted for IRB approval (e.g., interview/focus group protocol, survey instrument, informed consent document, etc.
4. A projected timeline, organized by month, for completing the full DiP.
5. A synchronous oral defense of components 1-4.

C. Process

The Preliminary Exam is scheduled to take place during the spring semester of Year 2 of the Online EdD program. Students will submit and defend their Preliminary Exam during the spring semester; all Preliminary Exam materials must be submitted to the full DiP Committee through the EdD Student Portal by the end of the 12th week of the spring semester.

The full DiP committee will review these components in advance of a synchronous defense that will take place during the month of April.

Upon successful completion of the Preliminary Exam, students officially enter doctoral candidacy. After completion, students should apply for and receive IRB approval through the FSU Office of Human Subjects within 60 days of passing their Preliminary Exam.

Course Requirements

The Educational Leadership and Policy Program of Study (POS) leading to the EdD degree consists of sixty-nine (69) credit hours, of which twenty-four (24) are required dissertation hours. With a strong emphasis on policy, the coursework is clustered into three areas: (1) Foundations/Policy, (2) Methodological Approaches, and (3) Intensive Academic Immersion Experiences that encourage students to think critically about their DiP. Students will also take at least two major electives; a lists of possible courses will be provided. The required courses follow:

Year 1: Foundations

Summer (9 credits)

EDF 6486: Applied Research Methods

EDF 5743: Foundations of Education

EDF 6485: Professional Learning for Educational Practitioners (PLEP)1

Fall (6 credits)

EDF 5464: Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methods

EDF 6474: Foundations of Practice Models

Spring (6 credits)

EDA 6425: Literature Review for Educational Research

EDA 6105: Laboratory of Practice 1

Year 2: Policy Context

Summer (9 credits)

EDF 6480: Applied Quantitative Methods

EDF 6493: Professional Learning for Educational Practitioners (PLEP) 2

EDF 6455: Data Use in Educational Settings

Fall (6 credits)

EDA 6061: Educational Administration and Organizational Practice *OR*

EDH 6635: Organization and Governance of Higher Education

EDA 6068: Education Policy to Practice

EDH 6401: Public Policy in Higher Education

Spring (6 credits)

EDA6108: Laboratory of Practice 2

Major Elective

Year 3: Original Research in Practice

Summer (9 credits)

Dissertation Hours (6 credits)

Major Elective

Fall (9 credits)

Dissertation Hours (9 credits)

Spring (9 credits)

Dissertation Hours (9 credits)

Transfer of Courses

A student may *transfer* up to six semester hours of relevant course credit into the doctoral program, provided the courses were earned with a grade of "B" or better, are approved by the student's advisor and were taken *after* the completion of the master's degree and within five years of admission to the doctoral program. These *transfer* hours may be counted toward the completion of the program of studies leading to the doctoral degree if approved by the student's academic advisor.

Continuous Enrollment

All students must be continuously enrolled over the course of their graduate studies, meaning that they must register for courses as the online Ed.D. curriculum outlines. If a student does not do so, they will be considered inactive and must reapply to the program. The reapplication materials must include a letter of reference from their temporary advisor or major professor who is familiar with the student's circumstances as well as an updated letter of intent that includes a proposed timeline for completion of graduate studies. This is a cohort program, students must follow the curriculum as it is outlined in the Program Handbook..

Clearance for continuous enrollment is completed by the online Ed.D. program director. Clearance is given only if the student has met the following requirements: successfully completed course prerequisites; an overall GPA of 3.0 or better for all graduate work completed with no incomplete grade; an approved supervisory committee; an approved program of study on file in the graduate office, and completion of the diagnostic examination, and research tool requirements.

Please note due to the accelerated nature of this doctoral program students will not be allowed to progress through the program with more than one incomplete grade at a time. Students must demonstrate mastery of the content of each course in order to move forward with their cohort. If a student falls behind, a meeting with the program director and department chair should be arranged to organize an appropriate plan of action to help the student remain on track. In addition, from the Florida State University *Graduate Bulletin*:

A student who has completed the required coursework, passed the Preliminary Examination and submitted an Admission to Candidacy form to the Office of the Registrar, and continues to use campus facilities and/or receives faculty supervision, but **has not made a final dissertation submission** shall include in the required full-time load a minimum of two credit hours of dissertation per semester, including Summer term, until completion of the degree. Those with underload permission must register for at least two credit hours of dissertation per semester (or term). Underloads must be approved by the student's academic dean. Before registering for dissertation hours, the student must consult the major professor as to the proportion of time to be devoted to dissertation work.

Major Professor

Upon acceptance into the program, students are primarily advised by the EdD Director and the Student Advising Coordinator until the beginning of Fall II. For additional support, students are placed into advising teams based on their interests during Fall I. Each advising team consists of a core group of faculty with shared research expertise. The advising team is the main body that will evaluate students' diagnostic exams during the Fall I semester. Shortly after the diagnostic exam, students will be assigned a major professor who will ultimately advise students through the completion of their DiP.

At the beginning of Spring II, students will also be assigned two other ELPS faculty and a university representative as the remaining members of their full DiP Committee (see Supervisory Committee below). Together with the major professor, this group forms the committee that will evaluate the student's preliminary exam and full DiP.

Supervisory Committee

The supervisory committee or advising team will be in charge of the student's work until the completion of all requirements for the degree. The membership of the supervisory committee will be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

The supervisory committee will consist of a minimum of four members of the graduate faculty, all of whom must have Graduate Faculty Status, one of whom is a representative-at-large of the graduate faculty drawn from outside the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and who is tenured. Additional members may be appointed if deemed desirable.

The representative-at-large is responsible for ensuring that University policies are followed, and that decisions made by the supervisory committee reflect the collective judgment of the committee. Therefore, the graduate faculty representative must be someone who is free of conflicts of interest with other members of the committee. If questions arise they should be referred to the Dean of Graduate Studies for resolution.

Program of Study

The student should prepare a complete plan of courses to be taken under the supervision of the major professor based on the online Ed.D. curriculum. This program of study must be signed by each member of the committee and the department chair. A signed program of study must be submitted to the Office of Academic Services and Intern Support (OASIS) by the end of the first academic year. It is necessary to list the semesters and years courses are to be taken in chronological order (past to present) to determine that university, department, and college requirements will be met. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he/she has met all degree requirements.

Upon receipt of a departmentally approved program of study, OASIS will review the proposed program to insure compliance with the make-up of the supervisory committee and requirements

for inquiry skills. Forms for the doctoral program of study are available at <https://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/student-academic-services-oasis/for-graduate-students>

Summer Institute

Students are required to attend a three-day long professional learning seminar in Tallahassee during Summer semester for each year they are enrolled. The Summer Institute is held during the seventh instructional week of the summer term, which typically takes place around the third week of June each year; students should consult the FSU calendar for the official dates of the seventh week of the term.

If a student is unable to attend the Summer Institute, they must submit a formal waiver request to the Director by the end of Week 10 of the Spring term. Exceptions will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by the EdD Executive Committee. Students who are unable to attend and have been granted a waiver will be expected to complete alternative assignments.

Dissertation Credits

A student must earn a minimum of twenty-four dissertation credits and adhere to the continuous enrollment policy in order to complete the doctorate. To earn an “S” on dissertation hours credits, students must show evidence of progress towards completion of the Dissertation in Practice. Evaluation of dissertation hours credits will be at the discretion of the Major Professor. Additional information is included under the dissertation hours grading section.

Dissertation Credit Hour Fee: There is a \$70 per credit hour fee assessed for dissertation credit hours in the Online EdD. The purpose of this fee is to allow the program and department to provide enhanced academic and administrative support to students as students write, complete, and defend their dissertations *in practice*.

Dissertation in Practice

A doctoral dissertation in practice must be completed on a problem of practice relevant to the area of major. To be acceptable it must be an achievement in original research constituting a significant contribution to knowledge and represent a substantial scholarly effort on the part of the student.

The Dissertation in Practice (DiP) represents a public statement of doctoral quality research. Its designation as a dissertation in practice report emphasizes its practitioner based research focus. Unlike a traditional Ph.D. dissertation that are often written for a restricted community of scholars the DiP is directed at a wider audience, one that is focused on practitioners. In other words, your findings will have real world applicability for professional working in varied educational settings. As a scholar practitioner, you will produce a report that demonstrates both scholarly rigor and practitioner relevance. Therefore, the DiP adheres to specific research

standards and protocols that insure the integrity of your work and the reputation of Florida State University.

The manuscript must be prepared according to the style and form prescribed by the department and must be submitted through *TurnItIn*. Formatting and clearance guidelines for the final electronic submission copy may be accessed from the Office of Graduate Studies website: <https://gradschool.fsu.edu/academics-research/thesis-treatise-and-dissertation> or by contacting the manuscript clearance advisor.

The minimum number of dissertation hours for completion of an Ed.D. degree is 24 semester hours.

Final approval of the dissertation by the entire supervisory committee is prerequisite to the awarding of the degree. This is true no matter how many hours a student has completed in dissertation or what grades have been recorded for the dissertation hours.

Please refer to the *Online Ed.D. Program Guide* for more details on the DiP template.

Dissertation in Practice Defense

The final milestone of the EdD program is the DiP Defense.

A. Content & Format

There are four components to the DiP defense:

1. A full draft of Chapter 4 of the DiP
2. A pre-recorded presentation (10-15 minutes) highlighting the major components of DiP Chapter four and summarizing Chapters 1-3. The purpose of the presentation is to summarize the foundations of your work (i.e., the problem, the context, the research design), to explain your findings/results, and then to connect that back to the problem and potential solutions in your local context.
3. A 4-6 page (1,000-1,500 words) Executive Summary of the DiP, suitable for sharing with key stakeholders.
4. A synchronous oral defense of components 1-3. The virtual defense consists primarily of a question/answer or open conversation between the candidate and their committee.

B. Evaluation

The full DiP committee will receive components 1 – 3 **at least two weeks** before the synchronous DiP defense. During the defense, the full DiP committee will determine the extent to which students have adequately met the requirements as specified in this document.

Students will either receive a *pass* on their first attempt of the DiP defense or will be required to revise and re-defend at a later date. The full DiP committee, led by the major professor, has final discretion on this matter and the associated timeline for any re-defense. Students receiving a *pass* may still be required to revise the DiP based on the committee's feedback.

C. Process

The timeline for the DiP defense is determined by the student and the major professor. Students are advised to adhere to any deadlines specified by the Graduate School, including deadlines to submit the pre-defense DiP draft for initial formatting review, and the post-defense, fully revised DiP for final review.

Satisfactory Progress

Students are expected to defend their Preliminary Exam in the spring of their second year. Students who have not submitted their Preliminary Exam to their committee by June 15th of Summer 3 will be marked as making "Unsatisfactory Progress [Official Concern]" on their annual evaluation.

Candidates who have not submitted a defensible DIP to their committee by the last day of classes in Spring 3 (the final semester in this 3-year program) will be marked as making “Unsatisfactory Progress [Official Concern]” on their annual evaluation. Students who have not successfully defended their DIP by June 30 of the Summer 4 must submit a timeline to their major professor that backwards maps their dissertation completion by their fourth spring semester manuscript clearance deadline. Candidates who have not successfully defended their DIP by Spring 4 as stipulated in the agreed upon timeline will receive “Unsatisfactory Progress [Official Concern]” on their annual evaluation. Students with two consecutive Unsatisfactory annual evaluations will be dismissed from the program.

Dissertation Hours Grading

Students complete a dissertation completion timeline as part of their DIP Preliminary Exam defense. If a student has not adhered to this timeline over the course of a semester, they will be assigned a grade of “Unsatisfactory” for their dissertation hours for that semester. Appeals for special circumstances should follow the FSU grade appeal policy.

Benchmarks for “Satisfactory” dissertation hours grade Summer 3:

- Completion of Checkpoints in Dissertation Hours Workshop
- IRB submission
- IRB approval
- Data collection begun

Benchmarks for “Satisfactory” dissertation hours grade Fall 3:

- Data collection completed
- Data analysis begun
- Draft of results submitted

Benchmarks for “Satisfactory” dissertation hours grade Spring 3:

- Draft of Chapter 4 submitted

Time Limit for Completion of Degree

It is University policy that all requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within five calendar years from the time the student passes the preliminary examination or the student must pass a new preliminary examination. If the student’s major professor and/or Department Chair does not choose to either approve an Extension of Time (EOT) or require the student to take the preliminary exam and/or coursework again for readmission to candidacy, then the student may no longer be enrolled in that program or at Florida State University.

It is the policy of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies that any doctoral student who exceeds the five-year time limit for completion of the doctoral degree and who has exhausted any extension of time provided by the Dean of Graduate Studies may seek readmission to the degree program.

Within ten years following initial admission to candidacy, a former student seeking readmission must provide substantial evidence that he or she has maintained currency in the field of study through regular employment or scholarship and resubmit their preliminary exam and proposed timeline for completion that the major professor considers defensible and reasonable, respectively. Upon readmission, the student's supervisory committee shall require that the student re-register for the preliminary examination and set a date for the defense of the preliminary exam. Once the supervisory committee approves the preliminary examination, the student will be awarded a "pass". The student must then remain continuously enrolled (see section on *Continuous Enrollment*) by completing a minimum of two dissertation hours while completing all requirements for the doctoral degree within five years from the new date of admission to candidacy.

If the former student is either (a) ten years beyond the date of initial admission to candidacy or (b) is within the ten years, but cannot present substantial evidence that he or she has maintained currency in the field since leaving the University, then readmission will be contingent on the student returning to the University to complete core courses essential to preparation for the regularly administered preliminary examination. These core courses will be identified by the supervisory committee and approved by the department chair. Once the courses are completed, the student will be required to pass the standard preliminary examination administered to all current students seeking admission to candidacy in the particular degree program.

Graduation

The student must apply for graduation at <http://registrar.fsu.edu/graduation/> during the first two weeks of the semester in which graduation is planned. If the student decided not to graduate during the semester after submitting an application, the student must notify the COE Graduate Director.

Students must be registered for a minimum of two hours of dissertation credit in the semester in which they apply for graduation.

Academic Honor Policy

A major concern of any educational institution, ranking with its concern for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge, is the maintenance of high standards of integrity and responsibility in the academic community. The program, Department and University recognize the responsibility of both faculty and students in developing and maintaining these standards.

The legal foundation for the coordinated efforts of faculty and students to uphold academic integrity and combat academic dishonesty is provided in the Student Conduct Code (FAC C22-3.04), which can be found in the *Florida State University Student Handbook*.

Academic Honor Policy

You can find the [most recent version of the FSU Academic honor policy here](#).

Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible for abiding by the Academic Honor Policy at all times. The instructor may further define in writing in the syllabus or other documents, the instructor's specification of the acts which shall constitute a violation of the Academic Honor Policy. Of required by the instructor, at the conclusion of each examination or submission of an assignment, each student shall sign a pledge that the student has neither given nor received aid from any unauthorized source during the examination or the assignment. Any student who observes cheating or violates the Academic Honor Policy is expected to report the violation to the instructor and/or the University judicial officer.

Grade Appeals

The purpose of the grade appeals system is to afford an opportunity for a student to appeal a grade if the student feels that the grade was inequitably awarded in that it involved a gross violation of the institution's own specified grading standards.

Step 1. Within 15 class days (defined throughout the Grade Appeals System as Mondays through Fridays during regular fall, spring, and summer semesters, as noted in the FSU Academic Calendar maintained by the University Registrar. Class days are not dependent on whether an individual student has class on a particular day) following the date that final grades are made available to students, the student must contact the instructor in question to discuss the grade and attempt to resolve any differences. The student should document any attempts to contact the instructor in order to establish that the appeal was begun within this 15-class-day period. In the event that the instructor is not available, the student should provide that documentation to the instructor's program or department chair. It is expected that the student will first attempt to resolve the grade dispute with the instructor; however, either the student or the instructor may consult with the appropriate department chair, school director, or designee during this process.

Step 2. If no resolution is reached within this 15-class-day period, after the student's documented attempt, the student has an additional 10 class days to submit a written statement to the department chair, school director, or designee. This statement must include an account of attempts to resolve the issue, as well as the evidence that forms the basis for the appeal.

Within 20 class days thereafter, the department chair, school director, or designee will set a date for a meeting of a grade appeals screening committee composed of three students enrolled in the academic unit offering the course to review the appeal. These students should be either undergraduate or graduate students, depending on the enrollment status of the student challenging the grade. The meeting should occur within that 20-class-day period, if practicable. Appropriate students who have no conflict of interest will be chosen to serve on this screening committee by a student organization associated with the program or department, if such an organization exists. If none exists or if members of such an organization are not available, the department chair, school director, or designee will select appropriate students who have no conflict of interest. Both the student and the instructor may attend the meeting, as may the department chair, school director, or designee.

The role of the screening committee is solely to determine whether the student has presented sufficient evidence to warrant further review. Within five class days after this meeting, the screening committee will render its decision in writing (indicating that they recommend/do not recommend further review) to the department chair, school director, or designee, the student, and the instructor. A negative decision will end the appeal. A positive decision will trigger the next step in the process.

Step 3. Within 15 class days of a positive decision from the grade appeals screening committee, the department chair, school director, or designee will appoint and arrange for a meeting of a grade appeals board. The meeting should occur within that 15-class-day period, if practicable. The board is composed of three faculty members and two students other than those who served on the screening committee. These students should be either undergraduate or graduate students, depending on the enrollment status of the student challenging the grade.

The purpose of this board is to determine whether or not to uphold the final grade assigned by the instructor. The board will consider only the evidence provided by the student and the instructor in making the determination. The student, the instructor, and the department chair, school director, or designee may attend the meeting.

The grade will be upheld unless the evidence shows that the grade was awarded in an arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory manner, as a result of a gross violation of the instructor's own evaluation (grading) statement. If the original grade is not upheld, the board will recommend that an alternative grade be assigned by the department chair, school director, or designee.

If the student has evidence that this grade appeals process has deviated substantially from these established procedures, resulting in a biased decision, the student may consult with the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement regarding referral to the Faculty Senate Student Academic Relations Committee.

Appendix A

Online Ed.D. Program Checklist

Student: _____

Term First Enrolled: _____

PROGRAM MILESTONES

| Milestones | √ | Date & Notes |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Summer Institute I | | |
| Diagnostic Exam | | |
| Summer Institute II | | |
| Preliminary Exam | | |
| Summer Institute III | | |
| Dissertation Defense | | |

FSU Non-Degree Student/External Transfer Coursework
(Only 12 hours may be used – Grade must be a “B” or better in order to be used towards the degree.)

| Prefix and No. | Course Name | Semester Hours | Year and Semester Taken (List in chronological order, past to present) |
|---|-------------|----------------|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Subtotal | | | |
| Semester in Which Graduation is Planned | | | |
| Total Graduate Hours + Dissertation | | | |
| Exams/Defenses | | | |
| Non- Degree Seeking Student/Transfer Credits | | | |
| Final Total | | | |

| Exam/Defense Schedule | Projected Date of Completion | Actual Date of Completion |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diagnostic/Qualifying Exam (required) | | |
| Preliminary Examination (required) | | |
| Dissertation Defense (required) | | |

Scholarly Engagement Policy

Effective fall 2016, the doctoral residency requirement was replaced with the **Scholarly Engagement** requirement. Doctoral students are still required to complete a minimum of 24 dissertation hours and many students complete far more than this minimum. The Continuous Enrollment policy also still applies.

The **Scholarly Engagement** requirement ensures that doctoral students are active participants in the scholarly community. Each academic unit with a doctoral program will include a program specific statement in its Graduate Handbook describing how its students can meet the Scholarly Engagement requirement annually.

Supervisory Committee

A minimum of 4 members who hold Graduate Faculty Status (GFS) at FSU is required – 2 members, including the major professor, must be from the major in which the student will receive a degree. One member, the University Representative, shall represent the graduate faculty at-large. Additionally, the University Representative must be a tenured member of the FSU faculty.

| **Committee Members (Signed and Typed) | Department/Major | Directive Status |
|--|------------------|--|
| Major Professor Signature: | | GFS <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Typed Name: | | |
| Member Signature: | | GFS <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Typed Name: | | |
| Member Signature: | | GFS <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Typed Name: | | |
| University Representative Signature: | | GFS <input type="checkbox"/> TENURE <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Typed Name: | | |
| Student Signature: | Date: | |

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Department Chair: | Date: |
| Academic Dean: | Date: |

**** College of Education
Doctoral Student Program of Study
Revised Deadlines – March 2017**

1. A doctoral student will submit to OASIS, no later than 12 months after enrollment, a completed Program of Study that includes the Major Professor and Department Chair signatures.
2. The two departmental committee member names and signatures must be submitted to OASIS in the semester in which the doctoral student is registered for the Preliminary Exam via the College of Education Supervisory Committee Revision Form.
3. The name and signature University Representative must be submitted to OASIS with the doctoral student's Dissertation Preliminary Exam Clearance Form via the College of Education Supervisory Committee Revision Form.

Appendix C

Incomplete Grade Agreement



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Incomplete Grade Agreement

Revised 4/28/2015

Department of _____

(A copy of this form must be completed for each "I" grade given)

Note: Incomplete" ("I") grades should be recorded only in exceptional cases when a student, who has completed a substantial portion of the course and who is otherwise passing, is unable to complete a well-defined portion of a course for reasons beyond his or her control.

Student Information

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| FSU Email Address | EMPLID | |

Class Information

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Instructor Name: _____ | Phone: _____ |
| Instructor Email: _____ | |
| Full Course Number and Section: _____ | Semester/Year Taken: _____ / _____ |
| Work to be completed by the end of: _____ (Semester) _____ (Year) | |
| Default grade to be assigned if student does not complete academic work: _____ | |
| Specific work to be completed: _____ | |
| _____ | |
| The "I" grade will be changed to the default grade if the work listed above is not satisfactorily completed by the semester indicated by instructor. Incomplete grades cannot be changed once a degree is posted. | |

By signing below, the student has agreed to complete the work by the time specified, without further prompting from the instructor. If the work is not submitted by the due date, the grade will be changed to the default grade listed above.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
(attach email of agreement if student not available)

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____

- cc: Instructor – Original
- Student
- Student's Academic Dean
- Department Chair (offering the course)

Office of Admissions and Records | Room A3900 UCA | (850) 644-1050 (Phone) | (850) 644-1597 (Fax)

Appendix D

Doctoral Preliminary Exam Results Form



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Office of Academic Services and Intern Support

DOCTORAL PRELIMINARY EXAM RESULTS

Directions:

- Please type
- Submit one original to OASIS
- Submit one copy to student's department
- Student should retain one copy for his/her personal records
- Attach completed FSU Admission to Candidacy Form

TYPE OF EXAM:

Doctoral Preliminary

Exam/Defense for:

Student's Name

EMPLID

Choose one (drop down menu):

Department

Academic Plan/Major

Major Professor – printed name & signature

Exam Completion Date: / /

EXAMINATION FORMAT:

Written Oral

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

Passed Failed Conditional

Consenting Members:

printed name & signature

Dissenting Members:

printed name & signature

printed name & signature

Conditions (if any):

Appendix E

Admissions to Candidacy Form

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY FORM

**Florida State University
Office of Admissions and Records
282 Champions Way A3900**

Form fields must be typed.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial | FSU EMPLID <i>required</i> | FSUSN |

The above named student has completed the following requirements for admission to candidacy including:

1. Enrollment for the preliminary examination on:
Semester/Year Course Prefix/Number
2. Passing the preliminary examination on:
Date

Choose One (Drop Down Menu):

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Program/Department | Department Chairperson Signature |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|

Registrar's Office Notes:

Registrar Action Student Data Posted:
Date/Initial

Appendix F

Scholarly Engagement Policy

The goal of the Scholarly Engagement requirement is to prepare doctoral graduates who can acquire, evaluate, communicate, extend, and apply knowledge through active participation in the scholarly practitioner community.

Annual Confirmation of Scholarly Engagement. Each year, as part of the annual review process, doctoral students must demonstrate to their major professor's satisfaction either 1) completion of any benchmark activity or 2) concrete progress toward the completion of any benchmark activity. Students will submit a Scholarly Engagement Narrative in the EdD Student Portal at the end of the spring term each year.

Prerequisites to be completed before key milestones in doctoral progression: Certain benchmarks must be completed before the end of Years 1 and 2 and prior to graduation.

BENCHMARKS FOR SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

During Year 1

- Develop a resumé or CV
- Complete the CITI human subjects training (to be completed in EDF6486)

And at least one of the following:

- Attend a professional development conference/meeting or
- Attend/watch at least 2 Relevant Research Roundtable (R3) presentations

During Year 2

- Updated resumé or CV

And at least one of the following:

- Attend at least 1 state, regional, or national conference (professional or research association)
- Attend/watch an FSU professional development seminar/workshop

Before Graduation

- Updated resumé or CV

And at least one of the following:

- Present the results of your DiP to key decisionmakers and stakeholders in your local context
- Present at a national, state, regional, or local conference/professional development seminar or
- Submit an article to a professional organization newsletter and/or journal

Appendix G

Graduate School Preliminary Exam Policy

Please note that the most up-to-date policy is [available online in the Graduate Bulletin](#).

FSU Graduate School Preliminary Exam Policy

Satisfactory completion of a preliminary examination shall be required for admission to candidacy for the PhD degree. No student may register for dissertation hours prior to the point in the semester in which the preliminary examination was passed. An admission to candidacy form must be completed and filed in the Office of the University Registrar prior to registration for dissertation hours. After completion of the admission to candidacy process, the student may retroactively add dissertation hours for that semester in which the preliminary examination was completed. Retroactive changes are only permitted if the preliminary examination is passed by the end of the seventh week of the semester. For term specific deadline dates, please refer to the “Academic Calendar” in the Registration Guide.

The preliminary examination is designed to test scholarly competence and knowledge and to afford the examiners the basis for constructive recommendations concerning the student’s subsequent formal or informal study. The form and content of this examination will be determined by the department, college, school, or examining committee (typically, but not necessarily the same composition as the supervisory committee) administering the degree program. Prior to the examination, the student’s examining committee will determine whether the student 1) has a 3.0 average, and 2) has progressed sufficiently in the study of the discipline and its research tools to begin independent research in the area of the proposed dissertation.

The chair of the major department, the academic dean, and the Dean of The Graduate School may attend any session of the supervisory or examining committee as nonvoting members. A member may be appointed to the examining committee at the discretion of the academic dean or Dean of The Graduate School or on recommendation of the major professor. Normally, the examining committee will be identical with the supervisory committee.

The examining committee will report the outcome of the examination to the academic dean: passed, failed, additional work to be completed, or to be re-examined; the report following the reexamination must indicate the student either passed or failed. The results of the examination will be reported to the Office of the University Registrar for inclusion in the student’s permanent record.

If a student fails the preliminary examination before being admitted to candidacy, then the student is ineligible to continue in the degree program unless a re-examination of the preliminary examination is offered by the student’s supervisory committee or other relevant decision making body within each department or unit, per that department or unit’s doctoral student handbook. The Academic Dean’s office should be notified of the outcome of any preliminary exam attempt.

Students can take the preliminary examination for admission to candidacy a maximum of only two times. A second failure on the preliminary exam makes the student ineligible to continue in the degree program. The second attempt at the preliminary exam shall occur no sooner than six full class weeks after the results of the first attempt are shared with the student. For the purpose of this policy, a “full class week” is defined as a week with five days during which classes are held at FSU. Students must be registered separately for their first and second attempt, if necessary within the same semester, and must receive either a “pass” or a “fail” grade for each attempt.

An exception request regarding the timing of the re-examination can be submitted for consideration to the Academic Dean’s Office by either the student or the supervisory committee. Students who allege that academic regulations and/or procedures were improperly applied for the re-examination of their preliminary exam may have their grievances addressed through the general academic appeals process.