Educational Leadership Doctoral Program
Progression through the Program: An Overview

Important Note: Forms in **BOLD** must be completed as students progress through the program. **EDD Forms (designated by a NUMBER)** must be submitted to the *Educational Leadership Doctoral Program* and are used by the Director to ensure and document students’ progress. **GS Forms (designated by a LETTER, e.g., “A”)** must be submitted to and approved by the *Graduate School*. Please pay especially close attention to processes and timelines associated with **GS Forms** as failure to comply with these may slow progress and/or delay program completion.

1. Apply on-line and be admitted to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program through the *Graduate School*, “Apply On-line” link). When completing the application, be prepared to select the Program Specialization for which you are applying: P-12 Administrative Leadership, Teacher Leadership, Postsecondary Education Leadership, or Organizational Leadership.

2. Enroll in the EDLD 702: Doctoral Orientation via WKU **Topnet**.

3. Meet with your Program Specialization Advisor to review the Program Components (described in this Handbook), complete the Program Worksheet (**EDD Form 1**), and submit the worksheet to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program. *Note: This worksheet serves as a planning document and does not represent an “approved” program of study.*

4. Shortly after completing the worksheet, meet with your advisor to complete the **Program of Study Form** to be submitted to the Graduate School. *Note: The Graduate School approves the form based on criteria described in the Graduate Catalog ([http://www.wku.edu/graduate/documents/catalog/grad_catalog.pdf](http://www.wku.edu/graduate/documents/catalog/grad_catalog.pdf)). Please refer to the Catalog for guidance regarding appropriate coursework and especially for information about requirements related to transfer credits.*

5. Near the completion of 21 required core course credits, declare a research agenda/topic of study and with the assistance of your Program Specialization Advisor select a Dissertation Chair. Submit the completed and signed Dissertation Committee Selection Planning Form (**EDD Form 1A**) to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program office.

6. In collaboration with the Dissertation Chair, select two other members to serve on your dissertation committee. Complete and submit the Dissertation Committee Selection Form to the Graduate School. Note that all committee members must have both WKU Graduate Faculty Status ([http://www.wku.edu/graduate/faculty_staff/grad_faculty.php](http://www.wku.edu/graduate/faculty_staff/grad_faculty.php)) and Doctoral Faculty Status ([http://www.wku.edu/edd/doctoral_faculty.php](http://www.wku.edu/edd/doctoral_faculty.php)).
7. Upon completion of the required EDLD core course credits and at least half of your electives, work with your committee to develop your questions for your qualifying examination, as well as schedule and take your exam (both written and oral sections). After successful completion of your exam, complete and submit the Doctoral Qualifying Examination Schedule and Evaluation (EDD Form 2) to the ELDP Office.

8. Seek and obtain dissertation committee approval of your research prospectus. Complete and submit the Research Prospectus Approval form (EDD Form 3) to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program.


10. At the same time as step 9, complete the WKU required CITI (Collaborative IRB Training Initiative) course (http://www.wku.edu/compliance/training.php). Again, you cannot begin data collection until you have successfully completed this course.

11. Conduct your research and write your dissertation. Note: Even if you complete all the required dissertation credit hours prior to completing your dissertation, you must maintain matriculation in the doctoral program by continually enrolling in EDLD 800 until the dissertation has been completed and defended.

12. Once your dissertation is completed, schedule your dissertation defense by completing and submitting the Dissertation Final Defense Schedule (EDD Form 5) to the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program.

13. Upon successful defense of your dissertation, request that your dissertation chair obtain and submit the Report on Comprehensive Exam form (GS Form E) to the Graduate School. Note: There are additional steps you must follow to submit your dissertation to the Graduate School. Please contact that office for this information.

14. Complete and submit the Commencement Participation Confirmation to the WKU Registrar’s Office.

Special Note: Although the above steps are meant to be accurate and up-to-date, please continually check the WKU Educational Leadership Doctoral Program website for the most current information and forms.