



Online Program
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Pursue your EdD at WCSU!

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NCATE/CAEP, NEASC, CSDE
60 credits to completion, part-time
Optional Administrative Certification
(092)

Flexible, online courses
Small cohorts conducted by accessible faculty
Reasonable tuition
High Graduation Completion Rate

For more information, contact:

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Coordinator, EdD in Instructional Leadership
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Office Location: WCSU Middtown Campus, White Hall, Room 317C

<https://www.wcsu.edu/campustour/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/campusdirectionsheet.pdf>

Revised: 11/19/20, 03/28/22

Just the Facts . . .

WCSU's EdD in Instructional Leadership program has

Admitted over 193 students.

A graduation rate of 83% of retained students, the national average after 10 years is 50%.

Nationally accredited doctoral and administrative leadership programs.

A program satisfaction rating of 2.9/3.0, on an 83-item survey.

WCSU Online Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership

EdD in Instructional Leadership: Program Description

WCSU's EdD in Instructional Leadership is the only doctorate of its kind in Connecticut and is one of the few doctoral programs in the northeast to focus on instructional leadership. The dynamic curriculum prepares leaders, such as teachers, curriculum specialists, counselors, school psychologists, and administrators to create innovative learning environments; respond to reform at the national, state and local levels; and transform educational organizations. Graduates of this program can apply advanced curricular systems and strategies in classrooms and schools. The program prepares educators to be instructional leaders within their districts, able to assist with many decisions related to academics and assessment. More information can be found at www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership.

Faculty members include Dr. Marcy Delcourt, Dr. Jody Piro, and Dr. Tricia Stewart. Their profiles can be found at www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership

The following questions are addressed in this document:

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1. Is this an accredited program?

This online **Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership degree program at WCSU** is approved by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Once accepted into the EdD in Instructional Leadership program, students may also enroll in the program to obtain a **Connecticut Certificate in Intermediate Administration and Supervision (Endorsement #092)**. This certificate program is accredited by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). Additionally, it has received national accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), using standards from the Educational Leader Constituent Council (ELCC) of the National Policy Board for Educational Administrators (NPBEA). The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is the current national accrediting body for the Department of Education and Educational Psychology and the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) is the organization overseeing the accreditation for the University.

Please note that as State and national policies change, the programs will be updated accordingly.

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2. What types of courses are offered?

Based on the reflective practitioner model, all courses are designed to assist doctoral candidates in taking leadership roles to improve the curriculum and instruction in their classrooms, schools, and districts. The EdD in Instructional Leadership at WCSU has three major components:

Leadership Theory and Foundation. In one of our first courses of the program, students participate in a leadership exercise and construct an individualized Leadership Development Plan. This plan acts as a blueprint for the acquisition and enrichment of leadership behaviors and skills. Additionally, students develop individual, group, and organizational competencies throughout the program.

Area of Specialization. Students investigate cognitive-developmental and socio-cultural theories and research-based strategies to design and modify classroom curricula as well as to create professional development experiences in schools.

Inquiry Strategies and Dissertation Sequence. Doctoral students interpret and apply a full complement of in-depth research strategies to educational settings. Students develop skills and extend their knowledge in the areas of evaluation, interpretation, and research implementation.

Courses included in each area are listed below and described in the Graduate Catalog <https://catalogs.wcsu.edu/grad2122/doctoral-courses-instructional-leadership-and-092-certification/> .

Courses in the EdD in Instructional Leadership, WCSU

Core Courses in Leadership Theory and Foundations	Area of Specialization	Inquiry Strategies and Culminating Project Sequence
ED800: Foundations of Instructional Leadership	ED802: Emerging Instructional Technologies	ED826: Application of Quantitative and Qualitative Methods Applied to Educational Research
ED801: Group Leadership, Group Processes, and Team Building in Education	ED821: Leadership Assessment and Development	ED860: Quantitative Methods Applied to Educational Research

Core Courses in Leadership Theory and Foundations	Area of Specialization	Inquiry Strategies and Culminating Project Sequence
	ED822: Talent Development Across the Curriculum	ED861: Qualitative Methods Applied to Educational Research
ED803: Educational Policy and Practice	ED823: Models of Creative Thinking	ED865: Introduction to Educational Research Designs
ED804: Learning, Cognition, and Teaching	ED824: Diversity Issues in Schools and Organizations	ED881: Dissertation Seminar 1
ED805: Research and Evaluation in Education		ED882: Dissertation Seminar 2
ED820: Topics in Curriculum and Instruction		ED883: Dissertation Seminar 3
		ED884: Dissertation Seminar 4
		ED885: Dissertation Seminar 5
18 SH	15 SH	27 SH

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3. How do I apply for the Doctor of Education (EdD) in Instructional Leadership?

The application is located online at our website: <https://www.wcsu.edu/graduate/forms/edd-application/>.

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4. What are the admission requirements?

The following information is requested:

- 1. A completed application form: [EdD Application \(online\)](#)
- 2. A one- to two-page résumé
- 3. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended; a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all previous graduate course work is required
- 4. Three recommendations attesting to your professional educational qualifications and ability to complete a doctoral program. At least one of these recommendations must be completed by someone in a supervisory capacity in an educational setting. The official WCSU form must be used for the completion of all recommendations. [Recommendation Form](#)
- 5. An interview

Please arrange for the following to be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions at WCSU:

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for all international students.

A completed immunization form: [Health Form](#)

Documents can be mailed to Western Connecticut State University, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810 Attention: Office of Graduate Admissions or sent as attachments to [Graduate Admissions](#)

Please note:

- 1. Admission to the program will be determined after a satisfactory interview with designated WCSU representatives from the Ed.D. admissions committee.

2. Please do not submit any additional materials.
3. Admission to the Ed.D. Program in Instructional Leadership is competitive.
4. Cohorts are limited to approximately 20 candidates.
5. Review of application materials is ongoing.

For additional information, please contact the program Coordinator. Contact information is located at www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership.

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5. What is the cost of the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

Costs are set by the Connecticut State University Board of Regents. Graduate tuition and fees are located at <http://www.wcsu.edu/registration/grad-tuition.asp>

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6. Are there any prerequisite courses to apply to the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

Students applying for the EdD in Instructional Leadership must already have completed a master's degree in education or a related field. There are no specific prerequisite courses.

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7. What does it mean to be part of a cohort model?

A new cohort is accepted into the program every other year (e.g., Fall 2021, 2023, etc.). Each cohort is limited to approximately 20 students. Students complete courses together in the same sequence. Accommodations can be made for students who transfer credits. The model provides the opportunity for candidates to form study groups and serve as a support system while advancing through the program.

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8. How long will it take for me to complete the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

This program is designed for full-time educators to complete a doctoral degree while taking classes on a part-time basis. Participants are accepted into the program every other year (e.g., Fall 2021, 2023, etc.). Candidates are expected to complete all course work during 3 academic years, including two summers. The comprehensive exam is completed in the summer of the 3rd year. The culminating dissertation project is begun during the coursework sequence and completed based on the candidate's schedule. An individual may take up to 6 years to complete the program, otherwise an application for an extension is required. The overall sequence is illustrated below.

Program Sequence

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Fall/Spring: 2 courses each semester held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (Once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course per semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous • Asynchronous • Hybrid 	Fall/Spring: 2 courses each semester held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (Once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course per semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous • Asynchronous • Hybrid 	Fall/Spring: 2 courses each semester held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (Once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course per semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous • Asynchronous • Hybrid
Summer: 2 courses Summer 1 and 2	Summer: 1 course (July) 092 Courses in May/June	Summer: Comprehensive Exams that support Dissertation

Note. SH = Semester Hours. Courses are 3 credits each.

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9. What is the sequence of courses and experiences?

The timeline for courses is available on our website: www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership. The program is also designed to provide candidates with a variety of experiences including publishing, program evaluation, professional development activities, and conference presentations. Every other year, students and faculty members organize an Instructional Leadership Conference to highlight student accomplishments, activities of educators in local school districts, and pertinent research conducted by colleagues in other institutions.

Course Timeline: EdD in Instructional Leadership, WCSU

Semester	Program Requirement	Course
Fall 1	EdD and Admin. Cert. 092 Fall 1	ED800: Foundations of Instructional Leadership
Fall 1	EdD	ED821: Leadership Assessment and Development
Spring 1	EdD	ED860: Quantitative Methods Applied to Educational Research
Spring 1	EdD	ED803: Educational Policy and Practice
Summer 1 SS1 or 2	EdD	ED802: Emerging Instructional Technologies
Summer 1 SS2 or 2	EdD	ED822: Talent Development Across the Curriculum
Fall 2	EdD and Admin. Cert. 092 Fall 2	ED804: Learning, Cognition, and Teaching
Fall 2	EdD	ED824: Diversity Issues in Schools and Organizations

Prepared by: Dr. Marcia A. B. Delcourt, Coordinator, EdD in Instructional Leadership, Revised 4/20/2023

Semester	Program Requirement	Course
Spring 2	EdD and Admin. Cert. 092 Spring 2	ED820: Topics in Curriculum and Instruction
Spring 2	EdD	ED861: Qualitative Methods Applied to Educational Research
Summer 2 SS2	EdD	ED801: Group Leadership, Group Processes, and Team Building in Education
Fall 3	EdD	ED865: Introduction to Educational Research Designs
Fall 3	EdD	ED826: Quantitative and Qualitative Applications of Educational Research Begin pre-Dissertation Advisement
Spring 3	EdD and Admin. Cert. 092 Spring 1	ED805: Research and Evaluation in Education
Spring 3	EdD	ED823: Models of Creative Thinking pre-Dissertation Advisement
Summer 3	EdD	Comprehensive Exams
	EdD	ED881: Dissertation Seminar 1 Proposal defense, Complete IRB application
	EdD	ED882: Dissertation Seminar 2 Set-up and Permission; Data Collection
	EdD	ED883: Dissertation Seminar 3; Chapters 1, 2 and 3 or 1, 3, and 4 completed;
	EdD	ED884: Dissertation Seminar 4; Chapters 4 and 5 completed
	EdD	ED885: Dissertation Seminar 5 Chapters 1-5 revised; Editing, Dissertation Defense
Summer 2, 4, or after the EdD SS1	Admin. Cert. 092 Summer 1	EDL618: Understanding the Political and Ethical Environment of School Leadership
Summer 2, 4, or after the EdD SS1	Admin. Cert. 092 Summer 1	EDL656: Leadership in Teaching and Learning
	Admin. Cert. 092 Fall 2	ED660: Internship & Seminar in Educational Leadership: Theory, Research, & Practice I
	Admin. Cert. Spring 2	ED665: Internship & Seminar in Educational Leadership: Theory, Research, & Practice II
CAT*		

Note. Course sequence may be subject to change. Courses for the Administrative Certification that are identified in Blue can be completed at three possible times during or after completion of the EdD in Instructional Leadership program. Please consult the website for the Administrative Certification program for details.

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10. What will my schedule look like?

The EdD program includes 60 credits

1. 15 courses (45 credits) over 3 years are followed by a comprehensive exam
2. 5 course seminars (approx. 15 credits) to complete the dissertation process
3. The seminar requirements “chunk” the dissertation process into manageable bits
4. A dissertation committee under the guidance of a dissertation committee chair directs the process

Year 1

2 courses in the fall held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

2 courses in the spring held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

2 courses in the summer, during Summer Sessions 1 and 2, these courses are offered in an online format

Year 2

2 courses in the fall held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

2 courses in the spring held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

1 course in the summer, during July

Year 3

2 courses in the fall held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

2 courses in the spring held on alternating weeks, on the same night from 5:00-9:15 (once/week plus 1 Saturday class/course)

Comprehensive Exams

Dissertation Completion

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11. What if it takes me more than 6 years to finish the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

An individual may take up to 6 years to complete the program, otherwise an application for an extension of the 6-year time limit is required. This extension is subject to approval by the Director of Graduate Programs.

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12. When do I complete my dissertation?

The dissertation process begins as soon as you start to think about possible topics for your investigation. This should commence with your first course. Collect ideas, discuss them with your peers and professors, and begin to investigate the feasibility of each by reviewing the literature.

You will formally begin the dissertation process during your third year, when you meet with an advisor to start planning your project. The comprehensive exam is a draft of your dissertation, which is scheduled in the summer of the third year of study. This program has been designed to assist you to complete your dissertation by having a series of seminars for each stage of the process. The proposal, proposal defense, data collection process, and chapter revisions are incorporated into the seminars. The dissertation process culminates in the Dissertation Defense.

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13. Do I choose a major advisor or is one assigned to me?

Your major advisor will be determined according to the topic you choose and the type of research methodology that is best for your study. While a major advisor is assigned by the Program Coordinator, changes might be made as a candidate refines ideas based on research content and procedures.

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14. How do I select my doctoral advisory committee?

A doctoral committee includes at least three people who have earned doctoral degrees. They will guide you through your dissertation process. With guidance from your dissertation committee chair and the Program Coordinator, you will select and contact two individuals to serve as dissertation committee members. These individuals, in addition to your major advisor, will be your doctoral advisory committee.

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15. Is there a residency requirement?

This is a part-time program and there is no requirement for full-time commitment to coursework, therefore, there is no residency requirement.

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16. Can I transfer in courses?

Yes. Approximately 25% (15 credits) of coursework for the EdD program (excluding dissertation credits) may be transferred into a program of study. These courses should be no older than approximately 10 years when the candidate graduates from the present program, each course must be at the advanced graduate/doctoral level from an accredited institution, and each course must be equivalent to the course it is replacing. Consult with the Program Coordinator to apply to transfer any courses. Both a course description and syllabus must be reviewed to make this determination. No course can be transferred if it was a requirement for a formerly completed degree. Courses from a prior non-degree certificate program (e.g., Sixth Year Certificate) are eligible for transfer into the EdD program.

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17. May I take courses at other universities?

After acceptance to the program, courses may be transferred if each meets specific criteria. Each course must be from an accredited institution, equivalent to a course in the EdD program, within the total course credit transfer limit of 25% of the total credits (excluding the dissertation), approved by the Program Coordinator. Before registering for any course outside of the EdD in Instructional Leadership program, an approval form must be completed, signed by the Program Coordinator, and filed with the graduate office.

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18. Are the courses offered every semester?

The courses in this program are offered in a given sequence only. When a cohort is accepted, it is expected that all students enroll in the set sequence of courses. While these courses are offered in a presented sequence, a student seeking any change in the sequence must apply for a change through the Program Coordinator.

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19. How do I register for classes?

Each semester, registration procedures are handled by the Program Coordinator, who sends the schedule and a list of students/course to the office for the Division of Graduate Studies.

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20. How is the Administrative Certification incorporated into the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

The Certification for Intermediate Administration and Supervision (Endorsement #092) is an optional program for WCSU's EdD in Instructional Leadership candidates. Four courses incorporated into the EdD program are a part of the course sequence for the accredited administrative endorsement (ED 800: Foundations of Educational Leadership, ED 804: Learning, Cognition, and Teaching, ED 820: Topics in Curriculum and Instruction, and ED 805: Research and Evaluation in Education). Students who wish to obtain this certificate, apply to the "092" program and complete an additional 4 courses. Two of these courses are offered in collaboration with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and the other 2 courses constitute the required program internship. Students may complete the courses for the administrative certificate during alternating years. A schedule for both programs is indicated in the program timeline (www.wcsu.edu/graduate/edd/edd-timeline.pdf).

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21. What else do I need to know?

Take some time to [read the graduate catalog \(www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/graduate/\)](http://www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/graduate/) and the [EdD in Instructional Leadership website \(www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership\)](http://www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership). The catalog contains the basic academic rules and regulations of the university and provides course descriptions, while the program website contains all documents pertaining to the EdD procedures.

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22. What are key outcomes of the EdD in Instructional Leadership program?

Our greatest outcomes are represented by the accomplishments of our students. Of the candidates who are eligible to defend their dissertations, we have an 83% completion rate. The national average for dissertation completion is 50% after 10 years. Candidates are indeed becoming active leaders and researchers in their school communities both before and after they graduate. They influence their local schools and districts by accepting the following roles: Department Chair, School Dean, Principal, Assistant Principal, District Language Arts Coordinator, Mentor Program Director, Grant Director, NEASC Coordinator, Director of Technology, etc. They have also led their schools to becoming award-winning institutions at the state, regional, and national levels.

To prepare for one of our Accreditation Reviews, an external consultant, Dr. Dennis Shirley from Boston College, was asked to review all aspects of the program. He reviewed all program documents and held individual and group interviews with faculty members, students, community members, and university administrators. Among other comments, Dr. Shirley made the following two points:

As a professor of education who is well aware that one of the persistent criticisms of schools of education for decades has been that they are excessively theoretical and irrelevant to the concerns of teachers, principals, and superintendents, I found myself admiring the commitment,

talent, and vision of the faculty and staff at WCSU who created and are sustaining the Instructional Leadership doctoral program.

Second, the collaborative nature of the instructional leadership doctoral program was evident throughout this site visit. Within WCSU, the program is viewed by students, faculty, and administrators to be internally coherent and well sequenced. Discussants held that the doctoral program is embedded in a broader, university-wide commitment to the improvement of public education that they find praiseworthy and worthy of emulation by other universities. Significantly, local educational leaders on the Advisory Board agreed, confirming that the doctoral program is meeting their needs for highly qualified teachers and administrators.

Dr. Shirley's very positive assessment of the program is reinforced by the following student comments:

The excitement of working with classmates who are experienced practicing educators and faculty members who are dynamic and engaging, challenges my thoughts and ideas about education. Frank LaBanca, Danbury Public Schools

This doctoral program enables me to not only be a stronger, more knowledgeable leader, but it also inspires me to be a better educator. Joan McGettigan, Darien Public Schools

I have learned so much about myself as an educator and a leader through participation in this program. Nora Marrinan, Ridgefield Public Schools

I have no regrets about choosing to participate in this challenging program. Mike Obre, Danbury Public Schools

I came to WCSU's Ed.D. Program for the education, but I am staying because of the inspiration. Lori Kolbusz, Norwalk Public Schools

The most recent Accreditation Report from NEASC included the following comments:

A survey of graduates shows significant career growth, such as teacher to assistant principal or principal to superintendent, following graduation. The Team examined the process of outcome evaluation and found strong evidence of student success, careful assessment, and caring faculty. The University is to be commended for its efforts to build a strong and rigorous program that is thoughtfully and effectively evaluated and managed. (Commission on Institutes of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, 2013, p. 13)

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Completed Dissertations

All completed dissertations are available at:

<https://westcollections.wcsu.edu/handle/20.500.12945/54>