



FULLY ONLINE Program
www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership



Considering a Doctorate in Education?
Earn your EdD in 3 years at WCSU!

Well-recognized Credential: Earn an EdD, one of the most respected degrees in education, from highly qualified faculty members.

Respected Expertise: Gain credibility, mobility, and the competence demanded in the quickly changing education field.

Numerous Career Opportunities: Develop the knowledge base to be a better leader and change agent for your organization and community.

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

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Just the Facts . . .

WCSU's EdD in Instructional Leadership program has

Admitted over 200 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

Program Purpose

The Doctor of Education in Instructional Leadership at WCSU:

- Focuses on enriching the leadership practices of practitioners from a range of occupations through a commitment to individual and organizational growth.
- Prepares people from diverse backgrounds to acquire new knowledge, skills, and opportunities for administrative, policy, instructional, and research roles.
- Facilitates a collaborative learning environment focused on instructional leadership, assessment, policy, interpersonal skills and group processes, administrative management processes, ethics, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and social change, all while engaging in meaningful learning opportunities.
- Offers a 60-credit program that can be completed in 3 years.
- Provides an optional K-12 Certificate for Intermediate Administration and Supervision (Endorsement #092) in Connecticut.

More information can be found at www.wcsu.edu/edd-leadership .

Faculty members include Dr. Marcy Delcourt 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 Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).

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 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 in their schools and organizations. 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 along with research-based strategies to design and modify instruction as well as create professional development experiences in their organizations. Activities promote the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

THEORY AND FOUNDATION (15 S.H.)	Credits
ED 800 Foundation of Instructional Leadership	3
ED 803 Educational Policy and Practice	3
ED 804 Leadership in Learning and Cognition	3
ED 820 Topics in Curriculum and Instruction	3
ED 821 Leadership Theory, Assessment and Development	3
AREA OF SPECIALIZATION (12 S.H.)	
ED 801 Leadership in Collaborative Processes	3

ED 802 Leadership in Instructional Technology for Equity	3
ED 823 Models of Creative Thinking and Innovation	3
ED 824 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Issues in Educational Organizations	3
INQUIRY STRATEGIES (21 S.H.)	
ED 805 Program Evaluation	3
ED 807 Advanced Program Evaluation	3
ED 860 Quantitative Methods Applied to Educational Research	3
ED 861 Qualitative Methods Applied to Educational Research	3
ED 865 Introduction to Research	3
ED 866 Applied Educational Research	3
ED 867 Readings and Research	3
CULMINATING PROJECT/DISSERTATION SEQUENCE (12 S.H.)	
ED 991 Culminating Project/Dissertation 1	3
ED 992 Culminating Project/Dissertation 2	3
ED 993 Culminating Project/Dissertation 3	3
ED 994 Culminating Project/Dissertation 4	3

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

The application is located online via the [GradCAS](#) platform.

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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. Two 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](#)

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. This is a part-time program.

Graduate tuition and fees are located at <https://www.wcsu.edu/cashiers/tuition/>

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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 year. 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 or enter the program mid-year. 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 3-year 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 year. Candidates are expected to complete all course work during 3 academic years, including two summers. The culminating project/dissertation is begun during the coursework sequence and completed within the 3-year course sequence. 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.

Online 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)	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)	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)
Winter: 1 course Synchronous/Asynchronous	Winter: 1 course Synchronous/Asynchronous	Winter: 1 course Synchronous/Asynchronous
Summer: 2 courses Summer 1 and 2	Summer: 1 course (July) 092 Courses in May/June	Summer: 2 courses

Note. 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

Year	Semester	Cr Hr	Activity/Course	Schedule
1	Fall	3	ED 800: Foundations of Instructional Leadership	2024 FA
1	Fall	3	ED 865: Introduction to Research	2024 FA
1	Winter	3	ED 821: Leadership Theory, Assessment, and Development	2024-25 WI
1	Spring	3	ED 820: Topics in Curriculum and Instruction	2025 SP
1	Spring	3	ED 804: Leadership in Learning and Cognition	2025 SP
1	Summer Session I		092 Courses Delivered by CCSU: EDL 618	2024 SU SSI (5/20/24)
1	Summer Session I		092 Courses Delivered by CCSU: EDL 656	2024 SU SSI (5/20/24)
1	Summer Session II	3	ED 805: Program Evaluation	2024 OR 2025 SU SSII
2	Fall		ED 660: Internship and Seminar in Educational Leadership: Theory, Research, and Practice I	2024 FA
2	Fall	3	ED 860: Quantitative Methods Applied to Educational Research	2025 FA
2	Fall	3	ED 807: Advanced Program Evaluation	2025 FA
2	Winter	3	ED 824: Diversity Issues in Educational Organizations	2025-26 WI

2	Spring		ED 665: Internship and Seminar in Educational Leadership: Theory, Research, and Practice II	2025 SP
2	Spring	3	ED 803: Educational Policy and Practice	2026 SP
2	Spring	3	ED 861: Qualitative Methods Applied to Educational Research	2026 SP
2	Summer Session I	3	ED 802: Leadership in Instructional Technology for Equity	2026 SU SSI
2	Summer Session II	3	ED 801: Leadership in Collaborative Processes	2026 SU SSII
3	Fall	3	ED 866: Applied Educational Research	2026 FA
3	Fall	3	ED 867: Readings and Research	2026 FA
3	Winter	3	ED 823: Models of Creative Thinking and Innovation	2026-27 WI
3	Spring	6	ED 881: Culminating Project 1	2027 SP
3	Summer	6	ED 882: Culminating Project 2	2027 SU
	Total for EdD	60		

Note. Course sequence may be subject to change. Courses highlighted in Yellow apply to both the EdD in Instructional Leadership program and the Administrative Certification. 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?

Refer to course timeline in #9.

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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 culminating project/dissertation?

The culminating project/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. This program has been designed to assist you to complete your dissertation by having a series of courses to assist you with each stage of the process. The proposal, proposal defense, data collection process, and chapter revisions are incorporated into these courses. The culminating project/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. The Program Coordinator assists candidates in the advisor selection process.

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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 anticipated 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 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.

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21. What else do I need to know?

Take some time to read the graduate catalog (<https://catalogs.wcsu.edu/grad/sps/>) and the EdD in Instructional Leadership website (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.

Visit our website to read Success Stories from our current students and graduates
<https://www.wcsu.edu/education/edd-success-stories/>

An 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>