

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

★ Blended

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP,
P-12 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRACK

★ Blended

Enrich. Lead. Transform.

A Rich History of Education

Mercer University prepares more educators and educational leaders than any other private institution in Georgia, and our graduates are highly sought after and asked for by name.

Our students develop the knowledge and experience to teach, lead, and transform schools, districts, and communities, and our graduates are frequently recognized for their commitment to excellence.

Mercer's Ph.D. programs in P-12 education prepare leaders for positions at the local, state, and national levels with expertise in curriculum and instructional design as well as research and evaluation skills.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Our vision of
*"The Transforming
Educator"* is the
foundation for all of
Mercer's education
programs and
encourages each
candidate to continually
and thoughtfully
change one's self
in order to serve as
an advocate for
all learners.

I feel confident I can be an **effective leader** by engaging in **reflective** and **collaborative practices** in my local, state, national, and global school communities. I transformed from a teacher to a **teacher leader** as a Mercer doctoral student.

KARA COWDRICK, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, '18



A Top-Ranked Leader in Education

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is one of America's most distinctive universities. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Mercer among the leading universities in the nation—including a “**Best Value**”—and The Princeton Review consistently ranks Mercer in the **Top 15%** of colleges and universities nationwide. The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).



Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

Mercer's Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction prepares educators to become influential leaders and researchers, as well as advance the quality of education at the local, state, and national level. The program focuses on societal changes that are placing an increasing emphasis on the role of the professional educator.

Upon completion of the program and a passing score on the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) Content Assessment for Curriculum and Instruction, eligible candidates will be recommended for a Level 7 certificate in Curriculum and Instruction. This program does not lead to initial certification.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Strengthen knowledge of the historical, philosophical, and theoretical foundations of curriculum
- Cultivate an understanding of the contexts for planning, implementing, and evaluating curriculum
- Formulate strategies and techniques that incorporate critical analysis of current research and pedagogical approaches

College of Education *Leadership Academy*

Each year, students come together on the Atlanta campus to network and learn from experts in educational leadership. The Leadership Academy includes breakout sessions, keynote speakers, and working groups, designed to expose candidates to diverse ideas and methods, covering topics that complement and enhance the learning experience.



Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, P-12 School Leadership Track

Mercer's Ph.D. in Educational Leadership prepares candidates to become leaders of educators and educator professionals in P-12 schools and other educational agencies by helping them grow professionally. The P-12 School Leadership track is designed for school, district, state, or national leaders and blends theory and practice to cultivate transforming leaders. Upon completion of the program and a passing score on the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) Content Assessment for Educational Leadership, eligible candidates with Tier Two Leadership certification will be recommended for a Level 7 certificate in Educational Leadership.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop a deep understanding of leadership theory and its role within educational systems
- Acquire research and evaluation skills essential to both educational leadership and scholarly inquiry
- Build upon knowledge of inquiry and motivation to further develop professional skills and help others become transforming leaders



I chose Mercer because I wanted a doctoral program with a **strong academic reputation** and one that had meaning. The rigorous, **research-focused curriculum** prepared me to be a **critical consumer of research** and lead from a researcher's perspective that I wouldn't have otherwise.

CAYANNA GOOD, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, P-12 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRACK, '13

Why Mercer's Ph.D. Programs in P-12 Education?

Mercer University's College of Education has been teaching Georgia's teachers and educational leaders for over 100 years and is widely acknowledged for its highly individualized, student-centered approach to education. Earning a Ph.D. in Mercer's P-12 education programs equips educators and leaders with the skills and expertise to thrive in a variety of educational settings. Small classes, accomplished faculty, and hands-on field experiences in classroom settings make these programs distinctive, and program candidates are able to earn their degree while working full time.

Program Structure

Mercer's Ph.D. programs in P-12 Education are offered in a combination of online and weekend courses on Mercer's Atlanta campus, and require a minimum of 63 graduate semester hours of study beyond the master's degree, including research and dissertation requirements. Online classes are delivered weekly via the University's learning management system. On-campus classes include doctoral seminars that occur three Saturdays per semester from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a midday break.

Classes are taken sequentially over 11 semesters in 16-week courses during fall and spring and in eight-week courses during the summer. The dissertation process is supported throughout the program, and the cohort model allows for collaboration with classmates and faculty mentors.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

Offered: Blended (Online and Atlanta combination)

Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction Core (27 hours)

EDCI 819	Student Cognition and Motivation
EDCI 826	Student Assessment and Accountability
EDCI 835	Curriculum Theory
EDCI 839	Instructional Theory and Practice
EDCI 841	Curriculum Evaluation and Design
EDCI 845	Curricular and Instructional Technology
EDCI 848	Learner-centered Pedagogy
EDUC 866	Educator Development in School and University Contexts
EDCI 873	Curricular and Instructional Leadership

Curriculum and Instruction Electives (9 hours)

Candidates will submit a proposal for approval.
Electives should be at the 700 level or above.

Ph.D. Research Block (15 hours)

Ph.D. Dissertation Block (12 hours)

Total 63 hours

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, P-12 School Leadership Track

Offered: Blended (Online and Atlanta combination)

Educational Leadership Core (12 hours)

EDEL 800	Advanced Leadership Theory
EDEL 801	Organizational Theory and Behavior
EDEL 830	The Ethics of Leadership
EDEL 834	Research in Education Law

Professional Studies: P-12 School Leadership Track (21 hours)

EDEL 821	Policies, Politics & Cultural Aspects of School Leadership
EDEL 822	Collaborative Strategies: Strengthening Internal and External Relationships
EDEL 823	Human Motivation Leadership
EDEL 825	Learning and Cognition in Curriculum and Instruction
EDEL 831	Effective Human Resources Practices
EDEL 832	School Finance and Budgeting
EDUC 866	Educator Development in School and University Contexts

Educational Leadership Elective (3 hours)

Candidates will submit a proposal for approval.
Electives should be at the 700 level or above.

Ph.D. Research Block (15 hours)

Ph.D. Dissertation Block (12 hours)

Total 63 hours

Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum graduate cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Both programs admit students once per year in May.

Required Application Materials Include:

- Completed application for admission
- \$35 non-refundable application fee
- Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each college/university attended
- Recent GRE scores (within the last five years). The target scores are 151 verbal (51st percentile), 151 quantitative (43rd percentile), and 4.0 (59th percentile) for analytical writing.*
- Current vita or résumé
- Three professional letters of recommendation
- Written narrative of career and academic goals
- Interview with program faculty
- **Curriculum and Instruction applicants:** three years of teaching experience preferred if the applicant is a professional educator
- **P-12 School Leadership applicants:** copy of current Educational Leadership certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), if applicable

*GRE scores are not the sole criterion; applicants with scores close to the target are encouraged to apply and will need to provide stronger evidence of the ability to complete doctoral-level work and independent research.

International applicants should consult the University catalog for additional requirements.

MERCER
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Admissions

678.547.6084 or mercereducation@mercer.edu

education.mercer.edu