

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP,
HIGHER EDUCATION
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 Higher Education Leadership track in the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership program prepares current leaders in higher education for career advancement by empowering them to incorporate research-based decision making into their practice and understand the role of educational leaders in society.

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.



Mercer’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership made a tremendous difference in my life and career, and I believe that the **leadership** and **academic quality** at Mercer is not comparable to any place else. The **attention to detail** and commitment to my success that I received from my doctoral chair and committee members was exceptional.

ANSLEY BOOKER, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TRACK, '19

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Leadership Track

Mercer’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership cultivates professional growth and development within educators and professionals in higher education, and the program prepares these individuals to pursue leadership opportunities in colleges, universities, corporations, and other educational agencies by helping them grow professionally. The Higher Education Leadership track is designed for college and university leaders and practitioners who wish to develop research-based leadership skills and aims to enhance and improve the effectiveness of public and private post-secondary leaders and researchers.

Individuals who successfully complete the Higher Education Leadership track in the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership program are equipped with the knowledge and skills to hold a variety of mid-to-upper level jobs in higher education institutions and agencies. Career opportunities include roles in higher education settings such as presidents, provosts, deans, directors, and other leadership positions in admissions, financial aid, housing and residence life, and student services.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the importance of education and leaders and the effects they have on society
- Acquire research and evaluation skills essential to both educational leadership and scholarly inquiry
- Become a self-initiating educational leader and build upon knowledge of inquiry and motivation to further develop professional skills

Why Mercer’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership?

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 Educational Leadership from Mercer equips educators 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 this program distinctive, and program candidates can earn their degree while working full time.

Program Structure

Mercer’s Higher Education Leadership track in the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership program is offered in a combination of online and weekend courses on Mercer’s Atlanta campus, and requires 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.



To be successful in higher education, you need to understand the research process and its implications. Mercer’s curriculum emphasis on **research, strategic management, assessment,** and **public policy** has been especially helpful in my development as a leader.

MATTHEW MCLENDON, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TRACK, '17



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).

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.



PROGRAM OF STUDY

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Higher Education 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: Higher Education Leadership Track (21 hours)

EDEL 815 Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness
EDEL 816 Comprehensive Planning in Higher Education
EDEL 841 Higher Education Student Affairs
EDEL 843 Higher Education Academic Affairs
EDEL 844 Administration and Finance in Higher Education
EDEL 846 Policy and Politics in Higher Education
EDEL 850 Internship in Educational Leadership

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.

The program admits 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
- Documentation of appropriate higher education experience
- Three professional letters of recommendation
- Written narrative of career and academic goals
- Interview with program faculty

*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.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Admissions
678.547.6084 or mercereducation@mercer.edu
education.mercer.edu