



Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission must hold a master's degree from a college or university accredited by an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with a minimum graduate cumulative GPA of 3.5.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS INCLUDE:

- Completed application for admission
- \$35 non-refundable application fee
- Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- 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.



CONTACT US

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MERCER
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) PROGRAMS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Enrich. Lead. Transform.

Extend Your Impact as a Leader in Education

Mercer University's Tift College of Education has been teaching Georgia's teachers and educational leaders for over 100 years and is widely recognized for its highly individualized, student-centered approach to education.

Earning a Ph.D. from Mercer equips educators and leaders with the skills and expertise to thrive in a variety of educational settings.

Choose from one of the following tracks:

- **Curriculum and Instruction**
- **Educational Leadership**
 - Higher Education Leadership
 - Independent School Leadership
 - P-12 School Leadership

PROGRAM DETAILS

Format: Blended combination of online and on-campus instruction

Start Term: May

Course Length: 16 weeks in fall and spring; 8 weeks in summer

Completion Time: 3.5 years across 11 semesters in summer, fall, and spring

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MERCER
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Academic Programs

As a leader in innovative, enriching curricula, Mercer prepares students to lead the way as visionaries in education by offering educational leadership programs designed to help educators cultivate their leadership potential. Prepare to take on more responsibility within your school or district through one of Mercer’s Ph.D. programs.



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.

 **Leads to Level 7 certification**

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Courses: 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

Electives: 9 hours

Students will submit a proposal for electives at the 700-level or above to be approved by the program director.

Research Block: 15 hours

Dissertation Block: 12 hours

Total Degree Requirements: 63 hours

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

Mercer’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in P-12 School Leadership is designed for school, district, state, or national leaders and blends theory and practice to cultivate transforming leaders in P-12 schools and other educational agencies.

Upon completion of the program and a passing score on the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) Content Assessment for Educational Leadership, candidates with Tier II Leadership certification will be recommended for a Level 7 certificate in Educational Leadership. Candidates may also choose to pursue the Ph.D. in Education Leadership with embedded Tier II.

 **Leads to Level 7 certification**

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Courses: 12 hours

EDEL 800	Advanced Leadership Theory
EDEL 801	Organizational Theory and Behavior
EDEL 828	Law and Ethics for Educational Leaders
EDEL 829	Leadership for Diversity and Inclusivity

Professional Studies: 15 hours

EDEL 823	Human Motivation Leadership
EDCI 826	Student Assessment and Accountability
EDEL 826	School District Finance Policies and Procedures
EDEL 827	Theoretical and Empirical Foundations of School-Partnerships
EDEL 828	School Leadership in Human Resources: Selection, Induction, and Mentoring
EDUC 866	Educator Development in School and University Contexts

Electives: 9 hours

Students will submit a proposal for electives at the 700-level or above to be approved by the program director.

Research Block: 15 hours

Dissertation Block: 12 hours

Total Degree Requirements: 63 hours

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Leadership

Mercer’s Ph.D. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Higher Education Leadership is designed for college and university leaders and practitioners who wish to develop research-based leadership skills, and prepares individuals to pursue leadership opportunities in colleges, universities, corporations, and other educational agencies.

Candidates who successfully complete the 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 such as presidents, provosts, deans, directors, and other leadership positions in admissions, financial aid, housing and residence life, and student services.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Courses: 12 hours

EDEL 800	Advanced Leadership Theory
EDEL 801	Organizational Theory and Behavior
EDEL 818	Law and Ethics for Educational Leadership
EDEL 829	Leadership for Diversity and Inclusivity

Professional Studies: 21 hours

EDEL 836	Institutional Planning, Assessment, and Effectiveness
EDEL 841	Research in Student Affairs
EDEL 843	Research in Academic Affairs
EDEL 844	Administrative Affairs and Finance
EDEL 846	Policy and Politics in Higher Education

Electives: 9 hours

Students will submit a proposal for electives at the 700-level or above to be approved by the program director.

Research Block: 15 hours

Dissertation Block: 12 hours

Total Degree Requirements: 63 hours

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Independent School Leadership

Mercer’s Ph.D.in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Independent School Leadership prepares candidates to become leaders in P-12 indepedent and charter schools by teaching them how to maximize leadership, enrollment growth, and student success opportunities in P-12 independent schools. Candidates in the program integrate research and service to solve real-world challenges, both in the classroom and beyond.

Candidates who successfully complete the program are equipped to hold a variety of leadership positions within independent and charter schools, including principal, administrator, head of school, and more.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Core Courses: 12 hours

EDEL 800	Advanced Leadership Theory
EDEL 801	Organizational Theory and Behavior
EDEL 818	Law and Ethics for Educational Leadership
EDEL 829	Leadership for Diversity and Inclusivity

Professional Studies: 15 hours

EDEL 847	Managing the Learning Program in Independent Schools
EDEL 848	Leadership Challenges in Independent Schools
EDEL 849	Strategic Enrollment Management for Independent Schools

Students may choose to take two classes from the required coursework from the P-12 or Higher Education track (for example, EDEL 836 Institutional Planning, Assessment and Effectiveness or EDEL 844 Administrative Affairs and Finance).

Electives: 9 hours

Students will submit a proposal for electives at the 700-level or above to be approved by the program director.

Research Block: 15 hours

Dissertation Block: 12 hours

Total Degree Requirements: 63 hours



Programs that lead to initial and advanced certification are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).