



# Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership

TRIDENT'S DOCTORATE

Advanced Instruction • Applied Research Skills • Strong Competencies



**TRIDENT  
UNIVERSITY**  
INTERNATIONAL

A member of the American InterContinental University System

# Welcome to Trident's Doctorate Program

The Doctor of Philosophy degree represents the highest level of achievement in any academic discipline. Trident's online Ph.D. degree in Educational Leadership is research-based, helping graduates prepare to excel as researchers, educational leaders at K-12 and higher education, administrators, and consultants. It is a challenging path filled with rewards, designed to shape individuals into innovators and thought-leaders who have the know-how and desire to transform educational communities. Learning in an all-online environment, students have access to resources and support in an environment where they learn in small classes, engage with faculty members on significant research problems, personalize their program, and benefit from the opportunity to interact with peers and faculty from our four areas of concentration. Working closely with faculty allows students to accrue knowledge and strengthen their research acumen through interactions with individuals from a diverse set of industries, including the academic, military, and corporate worlds. From the classroom to the culmination of the Ph.D. dissertation, students will work to develop the abilities needed to respond to emerging problems and opportunities facing educational communities.

**Dr. Wenling Li**  
*Program Director for Ph.D. in Educational Leadership*

<b>Content</b>	
Welcome	1
Why Trident - The Trident Difference	2
Program Overview	3
Educational Technology Concentration	5
Health Education Concentration	6
Higher Educational Leadership Concentration	7
Teaching, Learning and Developing Concentration	8
Doctoral Resource Links	9
Milestones	10



## Why Trident?

1. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org)
2. 100% online 52-credit program with no in-person class requirements
3. Affordable and Flexible
4. Faculty with a doctoral degree and extensive research, professional practice and teaching experience
5. Access to most required academic resources at no extra cost through our virtual library.
6. Embracing real-world learning with the EdActive™ Learning Approach
7. Four Ph.D. EL concentrations
8. Culminates in a Doctoral Study that addresses a problem of practice

## The Trident Difference

### EdActive™ Learning Approach

- Creative learning
- Problem solving
- Experimental learning
- Designed to enhance ability to think, learn, and solve problems.

### How EdActive™ learning works

1. Students are presented with a question or issue.
2. They do the research.
3. They apply their own experience.
4. They present their solution.
5. Students receive feedback and suggestions.
6. They apply the learning to their next task.

### Flexibility

- Manage your own time to deliver on deadlines
- No daily micro-management
- Faculty is responsive to student needs
- Milestones keep you on track

### Affordability

- Accelerated programs
- Low tuition, no extra cost for most course materials
- Scholarships and grants available for those who qualify



With flexible, 100% online classes you can attend at any time, the power to earn a degree is in your hands.



Trident is part of the AIU System, which is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.



The 12-week sessions are available to doctoral students with four doctoral start dates.



# Program Overview

The College of Education offers the Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership (Ph.D. EL) degree with a choice of four concentrations. The Ph.D. curriculum has the following components:

## Core Courses

You will take four research methods courses and four required theory courses in the field of educational leadership. These courses build the foundation for electives, which you may pursue in your specialized area of study. Courses are valued at four semester credits.

Note: Students are required to purchase IBM SPSS Statistical Software for the quantitative research courses and dissertation research.

### Program Core Courses

Designed to help students prepare for the dissertation stage.

- DEL 602\* - Leadership and Leader Roles in Education
- RMS 600 - Research Methods
- DEL 632\* - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 612\* - Program Evaluation in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- RMS 608 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics I
- RMS 618 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics II
- RMS 611 - Research Design
- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research

Average time to completion is 2 years.



\*Possible credits transferred

## Concentrations

In addition to required core courses, you will engage in three concentration courses to complete this degree plan. Select one concentration from our four areas of study.

## Qualifying Exam - Written and Oral Portions

PhD students must have comprehensive mastery of their field of study and appropriate skills to conduct independent research design. You will be examined on your understanding of theory, research methods, and statistical concepts related to your research area of study. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate your expertise and your plans on expanding a research area of study. This qualifying exam includes: (a) written portion; (b) oral portion. The qualifying exam will be taken in DEL622.

## IRB Application

Pursuant to Federal law and regulations, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for research involving human subjects. Accordingly, prior to the student conducting research involving human subjects, including the collecting and analyzing of data, the proposed study must be reviewed and approved by the Trident IRB.

## The Dissertation Phase

The student will develop their dissertation through the completion of the 700 course series. **Average completion is 2 - 4.5 years**

- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research
- DEL 699 - Dissertation Seminar
- DEL 700 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 701 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 702 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 703 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 704 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 705 - Dissertation Continuation

## Total Degree Credit Hour Requirement

Total degree credit hour requirement includes 52 credits of required coursework. Following the completion of the coursework, students will continue to work on the dissertation and register for subsequent sessions in dissertation continuation courses designated as 703, 704, 705....712. The 700 series courses will appear in a separate section on the student's transcript dedicated to the dissertation.



# Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership

## Concentration: Educational Technology

The concentration of Educational Technology is designed to help educational leaders prepare to understand and create new technologically sound pedagogies grounded in innovative research and practice. Graduates of this concentration are prepared to serve in the educational leadership roles in PK-12 school systems, virtual schools, community college, and higher education institutions that require design and evaluation of a learning environment.



### Educational Technology Concentration Core Course

- DEL 606 - Management of Change in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- DEL 632 - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 635 - Current Issues in E-Learning
- RES 603 - Advanced Data Management and Analysis

### Program Core Courses

Designed to help students prepare for the dissertation stage. Core courses include 8 courses and 3 elective concentration courses.

- DEL 602\* - Leadership and Leader Roles in Education
- RMS 600 - Research Methods
- DEL 632\* - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 612\* - Program Evaluation in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- RMS 608 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics I
- RMS 618 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics II
- RMS 611 - Research Design
- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research

\*Possible credits transferred

### The Dissertation Phase

The student will develop their dissertation through the completion of the 700 course series. **Average completion is 2 - 4.5 years**

- DEL 700 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 701 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 702 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 703 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 704 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 705 - Dissertation Continuation

# Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership

## Concentration: Health Education

The concentration in Health Education is designed to prepare highly competent professionals through the innovative academic program. Graduates of this concentration are prepared to serve in the field of health education through teaching, research, and service.



### Health Education Concentration Core Course

- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- DEL 601 - Health Promotion Program Planning Design and Evaluation
- DEL 603 - Health Behavior and Change
- RES 603 - Advanced Data Management and Analysis

### Program Core Courses

Designed to help students prepare for the dissertation stage. Core courses include 8 courses and 3 elective concentration courses.

- DEL 602\* - Leadership and Leader Roles in Education
- RMS 600 - Research Methods
- DEL 632\* - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 612\* - Program Evaluation in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- RMS 608 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics I
- RMS 618 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics II
- RMS 611 - Research Design
- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research

\*Possible credits transferred

### The Dissertation Phase

The student will develop their dissertation through the completion of the 700 course series. **Average completion is 2 - 4.5 years**

- DEL 700 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 701 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 702 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 703 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 704 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 705 - Dissertation Continuation



# Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership

## Concentration: Higher Educational Leadership

The concentration of Higher Educational Leadership is designed to help professionals from various sectors including community college and higher education institutions prepare to serve as leaders, educators, researchers and scholars. Graduates of this concentration develop a deep understanding of how theories of learning and development are grounded in innovative research and practice.



### Higher Educational Leadership Concentration Core Course

- DEL 606 - Management of Change in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- DEL 624 - Teaching/Administration in Higher Education
- DEL 632 - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- RES 603 - Advanced Data Management and Analysis

### Program Core Courses

Designed to help students prepare for the dissertation stage. Core courses include 8 courses and 3 elective concentration courses.

- DEL 602\* - Leadership and Leader Roles in Education
- RMS 600 - Research Methods
- DEL 632\* - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 612\* - Program Evaluation in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- RMS 608 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics I
- RMS 618 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics II
- RMS 611 - Research Design
- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research

\*Possible credits transferred

### The Dissertation Phase

The student will develop their dissertation through the completion of the 700 course series. **Average completion is 2 - 4.5 years**

- DEL 700 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 701 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 702 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 703 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 704 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 705 - Dissertation Continuation

# Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership

## Concentration: Teaching, Learning, and Development

The concentration of Teaching, Learning and Development help professionals from various sectors in PK-12 prepare, to serve as leaders, educators, researchers and scholars. Graduates of this concentration develop a deep understanding of how theories of learning and development are grounded in innovative research and practice.



### Teaching, Learning, and Developing Concentration Core Course

- DEL 606 - Management of Change in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- DEL 631 - School Reform
- DEL 632 - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- RES 603 - Advanced Data Management and Analysis

### Program Core Courses

Designed to help students prepare for the dissertation stage. Core courses include 8 courses and 3 elective concentration courses.

- DEL 602\* - Leadership and Leader Roles in Education
- RMS 600 - Research Methods
- DEL 632\* - Legal Aspects of Education Leadership
- DEL 612\* - Program Evaluation in Education
- DEL 614 - Research in Educational Leadership
- RMS 608 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics I
- RMS 618 - Quantitative Research and Advanced Statistics II
- RMS 611 - Research Design
- DEL 622 - Dissertation Research

\*Possible credits transferred

### The Dissertation Phase

The student will develop their dissertation through the completion of the 700 course series. **Average completion is 2 - 4.5 years**

- DEL 700 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 701 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 702 - Dissertation Series
- DEL 703 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 704 - Dissertation Continuation
- DEL 705 - Dissertation Continuation

## Ph.D. EL Program Milestones

The Ph.D. program is divided into seven distinct milestones. All Ph.D. students must achieve the milestones presented below to earn the Ph.D. degree.

- 1 Doctoral Coursework
- 2 Dissertation Prospectus
- 3 Qualifying Exam
- 4 Dissertation Committee Formation
- 5 Dissertation Proposal
- 6 IRB Application
- 7 Final Dissertation



"Trident allowed me to stay where I was, get a doctorate degree, and have the world open up to me in terms of the educational opportunities."

- James Gregory Hodges,  
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership

## Doctoral Resource Links

As a community-focused and student-oriented institution, we make every effort to make resources available that will promote student success and assistance. Be sure to view our wide range of student services to decide which will assist you in your academic endeavors.

### ePortfolio

To save everything related to the development of your dissertation in a single place.

### 800 Dissertation Tasks Course

Provides a single place to submit, track, and gain approval for completed tasks.

### Webinars

These innovative webinar series are designed to provide continuing education, skills-building techniques, and professional development.

[Culture of Research and Education \(C.O.R.E.\)](#) | [Career Center](#)

### Student Gateway

The Student Gateway provides links to frequently used resources for prospective doctoral students.

[MyTLC Portal](#) | [Catalog](#) | [Ph.D. Handbook](#)

### Doctoral Articles

- [Trident Health Sciences Professor Receives Teaching Excellence Award](#)
- [Trident Ph.D. in Education Alumnus Publishes Academic Papers](#)
- [Trident Doctor of Business Administration Professor Selected as SME for Conference in Dubai](#)
- [Trident's DBA Program Adds Experienced Management Professional and Researcher](#)
- [Considering the 4 C's: The Top 4 Reasons to Choose an Online Doctoral Program](#)
- [Advanced Degrees and Adult Life: How to Pursue a Doctoral Degree with a Career, with Kids, or During Deployment](#)
- [Accredited Online Doctoral Programs: Reputable and Feasible](#)
- [Ten Reasons Now is the Perfect Time to Earn Your Ed.D. or Ph.D. in Education Online](#)



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