

### Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Field-based Program Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Is Southern New Hampshire University accredited?**

SNHU is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, which means that your degree carries with it international recognition.

#### **Where do classes take place and who teaches the off campus, field-based classes?**

All classes take place in regional locations, usually central to most members of a cohort. Although we do not usually hold classes at our Manchester, NH campus nor at the Vermont Center in Colchester, VT, students are welcome to stop by our administrative offices for assistance with anything at any time. All classes are taught by recognized experts in the area of study and employed by Southern New Hampshire University.

#### **What is the work required and is it doable given all of my full time work commitments?**

The Ed.D. program is a 48 graduate credit program leading to a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. Coursework includes: One Profile Seminar Course (1 Credit), four courses in Leadership (12 Credits), four courses in Organization Development (12 Credits), four courses in Research (12 Credit), and a Scholar-Practitioner courses sequence leading to a Dissertation in Practice (11 Credits).

Our Field-based Graduate Education programs have been supporting professional adult learners for over twenty years and fully understand how to best accommodate students as they balance a professional life, academic life, personal life, and family life. This experience and focus is reflected in program elements such as course scheduling, the action-focus of the program that allows professionals to make progress on the initiatives associated with their work organization simultaneously while achieving their advanced degree, and practitioner-focused course content. These all help make the program doable.

#### **What is the typical class schedule?**

SNHU's Ed.D. program is offered within a regional cohort model, with hybrid courses occurring in a condensed weekend format during the Spring and Fall semesters and a week-long residency each summer.

#### **How do I choose my classes?**

A master schedule of classes is developed after input from the site participants at the Introductory Seminar (the first 1 credit course). Each required class is then offered once at a site for the whole group to take together – this is called a cohort model of graduate study.

#### **How many classes may a students take a semester?**

During most academic terms, students in this doctoral program will take two 3-credit courses. An additional one-credit Scholar-Practitioner course is also included during most terms during the first two years of the program.

**How are sites chosen?**

When there is interest in beginning a cohort in a regional location, SNHU works with qualified, interested professionals and explores building a cohort from within the regional area. The actual location of study within the region is chosen by the cohort of admitted applicants based on what works best for cohort participants.

Ed.D students from all regional graduate sites attend the week-long Summer Residency, which provides an opportunity for new students to get to know more experienced students in the program.

**What is the cost of a semester hour?**

The current tuition for this Ed.D. program is \$627 per credit.

**Is financial aid available?**

Yes, financial aid is available at our off-campus field-based sites if a student is taking three (3) credits or more per semester. A graduate student must be accepted to our program to be eligible for financial aid.

**Can credits be transferred in?**

Credits earned below the doctoral level cannot be considered to replace a course in the doctoral program. Previous doctoral coursework, completed within the past five years, will be reviewed for transferability upon request.

**How long do I have to complete my program?**

The Ed.D. program is designed to take approximately 3 years. If something happens and you cannot follow the course schedule for your cohort, we will do our best to find at least one alternative plan for you if possible, which could mean joining a different cohort. You have eight years to complete your program from the time you begin the first course.

**When do I apply for the program?**

When a new cohort is being planned for a specific region, applications are actively reviewed. It is suggested that you make sure to complete a program inquiry form so that we can keep you updated about Informational Meetings in your area and the emergence of new cohorts.

**Am I allowed to take classes at a site, even if I don't join the full program?**

The Ed.D. program consists of closed cohorts and is designed for matriculating students who have successfully completed the application process.

**Am I allowed to join a site that is already established?**

New sites may be created in a specific region if there are enough interested students in an area to begin our Field-based Ed.D. Program. Ed.D sites are not designed to accept new members once coursework is underway.