

## Joint PhD/EdD--MPA Degree (updated 6/26/2017)

PhD/EdD - Department of Educational Leadership and Policy  
MPA - Department of Political Science

### General Program Description

The dual PhD/EdD--MPA degree program in educational leadership and policy, and public administration adds an interdisciplinary option for students preparing to assume leadership roles in public administration and the related fields of educational leadership and policy, theory and/or research. The program reflects a broad spectrum of educational and administrative goals.

Approximately four to six years are required to complete the Educational Leadership and Policy/MPA degree. During that period students must meet the Graduate School's minimum enrollment requirements of 9 hours per semester for two consecutive semesters. Students are encouraged to remain in residence throughout the program.

***Students should apply and must be accepted by both the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy and the MPA programs. To enter the joint-degree program, students must gain admission to both programs within a year.***

### Program Structure

Students should consult with their supervisory committee chair in designing their specific program. The curriculum will conform to guidelines set by both the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy and the MPA Program. While the specific guidelines for each degree program should be confirmed with each program, general descriptions of these guidelines are offered below.

**Educational Leadership and Policy, Ph.D.** - There are several components of the PhD program in educational leadership and policy. While the specifics of each are included in the *Ph.D. Program Description* found in the Department's *Student Handbook*, summaries of each component are listed below. Students should consult and comply with all requirements found in the *Ph.D. Program Description* document.

- 1. Educational Leadership Course Requirement** - Students are required to take 68 semester hours or more of 6000 and 7000 level course work with one-half (50%) of this work at the 7000 level.
- 2. Core Courses (12 credits)** - All Ph.D. students must take the required 4 ELP core courses (Leadership Theory, Organizational Theory, Leadership Diversity and Social Justice in Education, and Education Policy).

2. **Content Specialization (15 credits)** - Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 15 hours of graduate-level study in content specialization area (at least 6 of these hours will come from MPA courses).
3. **Research Course Requirements (21 credits)** - Ph.D. students are required to complete 21 credits of research course work. The 21 credits includes 12 required credits (Introduction to Inquiry, Qualitative Methods I, Quantitative Methods I and Dissertation Proposal Writing Seminar). The other 9 credits will come from a specialization sequence in qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods.
4. **Research Apprenticeship (6 credits)** – Students will work with faculty to complete 6 credit hours of research.
5. **Independent Research and Proposal Development (14 credits)** - Students must enroll for a minimum of 15 semester hours of independent research focusing on proposal and/or dissertation work.
6. **Residency Requirement** - The Graduate School has a residency enrollment requirement of two consecutive semesters of full-time course work (9 hours per semester).
7. **Ph.D. Review Points** - There are four formal review points for all Ph.D. students. These are as follows:
  1. **Summative Review** – Conducted by the Director of Graduate Studies with the assistance of the entire faculty, this review is held at the end of the first year of study.
  2. **Qualifying Exam** – At or near the end of course work, Ph.D. students must take a qualifying exam (which is evaluated by the student’s supervisory committee) to assess if the student is eligible for *advancement to doctoral candidacy*.
  3. **Dissertation Proposal Defense** – Following advancement to candidacy, a student must successfully defend the dissertation research proposal to his/her supervisory committee to proceed with his/her independent research.
  4. **Dissertation Defense** – At the completion of the dissertation research

and writing, a student must successfully defend the dissertation study to his/her supervisory committee. The final oral defense must be passed at least one month before graduation, following the submission of a student' dissertation to the supervisory committee.

**Educational Leadership and Policy, Ed.D.** - The Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration Program includes four major dimensions: a) inquiry course work, b) the Higher Education Theory and Practice Core required course work, c) academic specializations course work and practicum and d) field-based capstone project. Throughout the program students will progress through a series of courses aimed at developing knowledge and skills needed to analyze and solve problems encountered by educational administrators and to prepare them to conduct a capstone field-based project.

**Theory and Practice Core** (12 credits) (Completed during 1st & 2nd yr.)

ELP 7480 – Leadership & Social Justice Theory

ELP 7490 - History & Philosophy of Higher Education

ELP 7540 - Introduction to Higher Education Administration

ELP 7590 - Higher Education Finance, Budgeting, and Planning

**Inquiry Core** (9 credits) (Completed during 1st & 2nd yr.)

ELP 6960 (3) - Introduction to Inquiry

ELP 7040 (3) - Quantitative Research Methods

ELP 7060 (3) - Qualitative Research Methods

**Specialization Core** (15-20 credits) (Completed during 2nd & 3rd yr.)

ELP Department Course Offerings (12 credits)

Practicum (3 – 9 credits)

**Capstone** (18 credit) (Completed 3rd and 4th yr.)

Students should work closely with the program director for the Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration to create a specific program of study for the joint Ed.D./MPA program.

**MPA Program** - There are several requirements for the MPA program. These requirements are as follows:

- 1. Credit Requirements** - The MPA Program normally requires a minimum of 42 semester hours for completion of the degree. Students in the joint Ph.D.-MPA Program must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours in the MPA program. As explained below, courses completed in Educational Leadership and Policy may in some cases substitute for MPA core courses, or be counted toward a

concentration, but in no case can this reduce the credit requirement below 30 hours.

- 2. Core Course Requirements** - The MPA program requires 30 semester credits (27 core and 3 elective) of course work. With supervisory committee approval, courses in education administration may be substituted for particular core courses; however, approval should be obtained from the MPA Director or MPA Program Manager *before* the courses are taken. The required MPA core courses are:

PADMN 6300 – Administrative Theory  
PADMN 6289 – Research Design  
PADMN 6550 – Nonprofit/Non-governmental Organizations  
PADMN 6380 – Public Budgeting, and Finance  
PADMN 6360 – Public Human Resource Management  
PADMN 6210 – Public Administration and Law  
PADMN 6335 – Governance and the Economy  
PADMN 6870 – Seminar, Public Administration and Ethics  
PADMN 6890 – Capstone Seminar in Public Administration  
PADMN – MPA elective

- 3. Major Research Paper** - For students accepted into the joint Ph.D.-MPA program, the Ph.D. dissertation or Ed.D. Capstone Project replaces and fulfills this requirement.
- 4. MPA Prerequisite** - Students must have taken, or will take before beginning the MPA, an introductory course in American National Government (Poli Sci 1100 or an equivalent).
- 5. MPA Internship** - Students who have not had appropriate administrative experience are required to complete an internship. This requirement may be met through a practicum experience in educational administration, upon approval of the MPA Program Manager.

**Supervisory Committee** - Students accepted into the joint degree program will select a supervisory committee composed of five University faculty members. The committee chair will be a member of the Educational Leadership and Policy faculty. At least one member of the committee will be from the Public Administration faculty. The supervisory committee is involved in the following areas of a student's graduate work: approving the student's course structure and program content; guiding the student's formulation, research, and writing of the

dissertation; reviewing the internship requirement; evaluating the written qualifying exam; hearing and evaluating the student's oral defense of the dissertation, and; giving advice and support as needed. Students are expected to keep their supervisory committee members informed of progress toward completion of degree requirements. It is especially important that students give members from both programs adequate notice of when they are beginning preparation for qualifying exams, as well as for dissertation proposal, review and defense. Last-minute notifications by students will inevitably delay student progress toward completion of these requirements.

**Application Procedures and Requirements** - Students should apply and must be accepted by *both* the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy and the MPA programs. Students should review applications procedure requirements for both programs. Application information and requirements for each program can be found in respective Departments and Departmental websites. Admission decisions for each program will be made by each Department. Hence, application time-lines and requirements for each degree vary. Students may apply to both programs concomitantly. In addition, students currently enrolled in the MPA program, may apply to the Ph.D. program at a later date.

### **Educational Leadership and Policy**

Admission to the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy will be based on the weighted consideration of the following criteria: GPA academic record, professional experience, leadership experience, letters of recommendation, statement of intent, situation paper, and GRE scores (quantitative, analytical, verbal and written components). Specifics regarding each can be found on the ELP website: <http://elp.utah.edu/programs/phd/phd-admissions.php>.

**Public Administration** – MPA admissions is also based on several items:

1. Graduate Apply Yourself application.
3. Undergraduate GPA of 3.2 or higher, particular attention given to last 2 years.
4. Letters of reference (3) evaluating applicant's professional & academic capacity.
5. Test scores from the GRE.
6. Letter of intent, 2-3 pgs. stating reasons for applying to the MPA program.
7. Resume outlining professional and volunteer work.

**Transfer Credit** - All transfer work must be approved by the student's supervisory committee and conform to policy guidelines and requirements of the University and of the respective departments (only 6 total transfer credits can be accepted).

**Application Materials and Further Information** - For information on respective programs, students should contact the following:

Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Educational Leadership and Policy  
1721 Campus Center Dr., Room 2220 SAEC  
(Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts and Education Complex)  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112-9254  
(801) 581-6714  
<http://elp.utah.edu/>

Program Director  
Master of Public Administration  
332 S. 1400 E., Room 236  
(Building 73, Old Law Building)  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
(801) 581-6781  
[www.mpa.utah.edu](http://www.mpa.utah.edu)

*revised: June 26, 2017*