

# Doctor of Education in Educational Policy & Organizational Design

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## Overview

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) with a concentration in Educational Policy & Organizational Design is a terminal degree designed to prepare scholar-practitioners serving in educational settings and professional agencies. By combining educational theory with action research, students learn how to critically examine programs and provide solutions to meet the needs of their setting. Graduates will possess the content knowledge and research skills necessary to improve educational and other systems. This degree is offered in a blended (i.e., asynchronous, and synchronous) format for all courses.

This 61-hour program (31 hours beyond the Ed.S degree or equivalent in coursework) is designed to meet the needs of P-12 educators and other professional staff who wish to pursue a doctorate degree who have earned an Educational Specialist (EdS) or equivalent in P-12 or related fields. This degree offers an opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree to increase qualifications for leadership positions, increase knowledge base appropriate to a doctorate, and enhance the graduates' trajectory in their selected career in educational and related settings, particularly within the school and district P-12 levels. This Ed.D. degree focuses on applied research, which is more appropriate and applicable to graduates who want to engage in application of their skills and knowledge, rather than pursue a career that focuses on a traditional theoretical research agenda as a faculty member in post-secondary education settings. To this end, the Doctor of Education with a concentration in Educational Design builds on a specialist degree (or equivalent) and will require a capstone or applied research project as the culminating of the degree rather than a traditional dissertation.

## Admissions Criteria for Doctor of Education in Educational Policy and Design

- A completed graduate application.
- Statement of purpose detailing your professional goals and how those goals fit the program to which you are applying.
- Names and email addresses for three references including two professional contacts and one instructor/professor who can speak to your academic ability. The admissions office will send them a link to an online reference form. Do not list family members and please inform your references so they can expect to be contacted by the admissions office.
- A recommended minimum 3.4 GPA (master's or specialist's degree) for admission to Ed.S. and Ed.D. programs.
- Participation in an interview.

## Contingent Admission

Contingent admission status is reserved for those students who are applying to a degree program during the semester they are graduating with another degree and the overall GPA is pending. Otherwise, the admission packet must be complete, and all admission requirements met before admission will be considered.

## Provisional Admission

The Division of Education follows the University's Provisional Admission policy.

## Residency Requirement

For doctoral students there is no specific on-campus residence requirement. However, students are required to complete one-half of required coursework and all capstone credits from Mississippi State University.

## Academic Performance for All Programs

The Meridian Division of Education defines satisfactory performance in graduate level coursework as a grade of S on capstone hours and a GPA of at least 3.00 on all coursework attempted. The division follows Graduate School policies relating to academic performance. In the event a student's performance warrants dismissal from a graduate program, the Graduate Coordinator will petition the Dean of the Graduate School to dismiss the student from the graduate program.

## Program of Study

ED 8813	Applications of Systems Change in Education and Related Fields	3
ED 9323	Program Accountability in Education	3
ED 9314	Systems and Individual Level Supervision, Mentoring, and Consultation	4
ED 9343	Organizational/Project Design and Management	3
ED 9413	Government & Agency Relationships in Education Policy	3
ED 9913	Capstone Seminar in Education	3
EPY 8133	Crisis Prevention and Intervention in Schools and Related Settings	3
ED 8620	Capstone Project in Education	9
Approved Electives (MSU transfer policy applies)		30
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>61</b>

The program requires a minimum of 61 hours of coursework beyond the master's degree (31 hours beyond an educational specialist degree or equivalent) which includes 30 hours of electives and a comprehensive exam. Students may take the comprehensive examination when they are within 6 hours of completing their coursework including the capstone seminar and have an overall graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher. See the E-POD Graduate Student Handbook for specific criteria regarding the comprehensive exam.

The capstone project proposal meeting can be scheduled any time after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination requirements. The specific guidelines for the proposal are contained in the Capstone Project Guide.