

THE ADVANTAGES TO EARNING AN EdD OR A PhD IN EDUCATION

The Doctor of Education (EdD) and PhD in Education programs offer different advantages. The program you choose should be based on your academic interests as well as your ultimate career goals.

PROGRAM	DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)*	PhD IN EDUCATION**
FOCUS	Walden's EdD program deepens your understanding of leading-edge developments in the field of education to prepare you to understand and make research-based decisions that can be immediately applied in your classroom, school district, or college environment.	Walden's PhD in Education program provides the skills to address the nation's most pressing educational challenges. You will conduct original research that can drive social change by contributing to the body of knowledge in the field of education.
DEGREE OBJECTIVES	Ensure that education professionals have the tools and skills necessary to implement research-based practices and effect positive social change. EdD programs are primarily designed for educators to take existing research and apply it to a specific issue, problem, or setting.	Prepare education professionals to use grounded theory and research to expand their knowledge and impact as researchers, social change agents, teachers, instructional designers, or thought leaders.
OUTCOME OF LEARNING	To solve a problem of practice within your organization or to address a gap in the literature related to professional practice.	To test, confirm, or develop a theory or add to the body of knowledge concerning research related to identified problems in the profession.
CAREER OPTIONS	The EdD program is designed for educators who want a more hands-on leadership role in P-20, community college, higher education, civil service or private and public institutions. You will be better prepared to improve your school or organization and become a practitioner-scholar by applying your new knowledge of teaching and learning practices.	This PhD program prepares students for academic and research positions in higher education or in a corporate, military, or governmental workplace. PhD graduates may serve as educational consultants, instructional designers, thought leaders in their professions, and/or leaders in schools, universities, corporations, military settings, or government.
CAPSTONE	Dissertation or doctoral study	Dissertation
CAPSTONE FOCUS	Capstone research should address a gap in practice and contribute to the educational field of study. Program participants can choose to complete either a dissertation or doctoral study. Doctoral study findings should address a unique problem of practice in the local area. Dissertation findings should be focused on gaps in literature related to professional practice.	Capstone research should address a gap in knowledge as reflected in the literature. Dissertation findings should provide empirical data to be used by practitioners to solve problems, and they must apply to the broader academic field.
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS	One 3-day virtual or face-to-face residency with the option of an additional advanced residency.	Four 4-day residencies; two of these residencies must be face-to-face, but the other two may be either face-to-face or virtual.
POINT OF ENTRY	Master's or Education Specialist (EdS) degree	Master's or Education Specialist (EdS) degree
PROGRAM LENGTH	Varies by student, pace, and credits transferred. Students may choose to take one or two courses at a time.	Varies by student, pace, and credits transferred. Students may choose to take one or two courses at a time.
PROGRAM LENGTH	79 quarter credits	86 quarter credits

EdD: <https://academics.waldenu.edu/catalog/education-human-sciences/doctor/education>

* Students take this course for a minimum of four terms and are continuously enrolled until completion of their doctoral capstone with final chief academic officer (CAO) approval. To complete a doctoral capstone, students must obtain the academic approval of several independent evaluators including their committee, the University Research Reviewer, and the Institutional Review Board; pass the Form and Style Review; gain approval at the oral defense stage; and gain final approval by the chief academic officer. Students must also publish their dissertation on ProQuest before their degree is conferred. Learn more about the dissertation process in the Dissertation Guidebook.

PhD Education: <https://academics.waldenu.edu/catalog/education-human-sciences/phd/education>

** Students take this course for a minimum of four quarters and are continuously enrolled until completion of their dissertation with final chief academic officer (CAO) approval. To complete a doctoral dissertation, students must obtain the academic approval of several independent evaluators including their committee, the University Research Reviewer, and the Institutional Review Board; pass the Form and Style Review; gain approval at the oral defense stage; and gain final approval by the chief academic officer. Students must also publish their dissertation on ProQuest before their degree is conferred. Learn more about the dissertation process in the Dissertation Guidebook.