EdD – Doctor of Education

DIVISION OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Program Description

Seattle Pacific University's Doctor of Education degree (EdD) is a 90-credit low-residency online program designed to prepare students for a variety of leadership positions in the K–12 education system, including building-level leadership and teacher leadership.

Designed for working professionals, the EdD program offers most classes online. In summer, classes are offered during the day in person. Students who have already completed coursework at the graduate or doctoral level may request to transfer previous coursework to SPU in partial fulfillment of the requirements of their degree.

Program Completion Requirements

In addition to the program's course curriculum, EdD students must fulfill the following requirements to complete the degree:

• Completing coursework with 3.2 GPA or better

• Passing mark on a publishable colloquium paper

• Passing mark on two comprehensive examinations (research, foundations)

• Passing mark on written dissertation

• Passing grade on oral defense of dissertation

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION/COURSES

The program encourages students to develop an area of expertise appropriate to their professional and academic goals. Areas of specialization may include but are not limited to: curriculum & instruction, literacy, executive leadership (K–12 focused), or a self-designed specialization. Earning certification as a superintendent, principal, or program administrator can be accomplished while working on the doctoral degree.

For a complete listing of doctoral courses, and a suggested four-year completion sequence, go to **spu.edu/soe-doctoral.**

Program Distinctives

To maximize the experience for those seeking leadership positions in education, SPU's EdD program:

• Provides flexible learning with the benefits of both online learning and face to face courses

• Cultivates a sense of community among students, faculty, and alumni that helps students stay connected and feel supported

• Offers students seeking school leader certificates, such as superintendent and program administrator, relevant educational theory and practice applicable to current K–12 school issues, including models of leadership, ethical decision making, school change, educational policy, and organizational systems

• Focuses on research that has immediate value and also meets the needs of school leaders

• Aligns its curriculum for school leaders (both certification and degree) with best practices at regional competitors and exemplary national programs

• Makes clear distinctions among empirical, research-focused, and practitioner degrees; to accomplish this, SPU now offers a PhD in Education in addition to its long-standing EdD

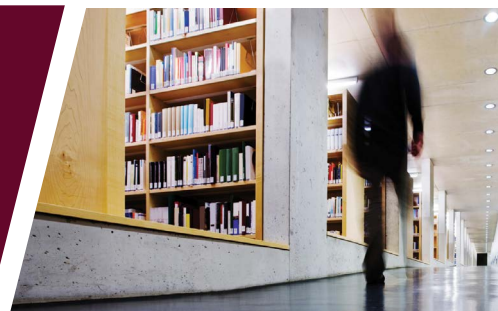### STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

College of Humanities, Education, and the Arts doctoral students and alumni have published in peer-reviewed journals, presented in national, regional and international conferences, and received competitive awards including the Fulbright fellowship and dissertation awards.

SEATTLE PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY

Entrance Requirements

The following items are required for application to the EdD program:

- Graduate application form, available online at **spu.edu/applynow**

- Application and fee

- Official transcripts documenting excellent undergraduate and graduate GPAs

- Master's degree in education or related field

- Minimum of three years' successful experience as an educator in K–12 schools (public or private)

- Three (3) letters of recommendation (one must be an academic recommendation and two professional)

- A writing sample demonstrating graduate-level writing skills

- Personal statement, including goals and proposed area of study (no more than 500 words)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The College of Humanities, Education, and the Arts at Seattle Pacific University also offers the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education degree. The PhD is a research-based program designed to educate and prepare students to serve as college- and university-level educators who can conduct publishable research and other scholarly work. Although both EdD and PhD students overlap in core doctoral courses, there are key differences between the programs, including:

- **Curricular focus:** PhD students strive to develop as scholar-teachers with an ability to conduct research and teach at the university level. EdD students are typically school leaders who focus on effective teaching and administrative practices within PK–12 school contexts.

- **Research component:** PhD students are required to conduct and understand empirical research that leads to publishable scholarly work. EdD students are trained to be evaluators of research for practitioner purposes.

- **Dissertation focus:** PhD students are required to complete an empirical, research-based dissertation. EdD students complete a dissertation that explores an educational issue related to curriculum, administrative models, field testing of a diagnostic tool, or another practical application relevant to their field.

QUESTIONS?

For complete information about the Doctor of Education (EdD) program, go to **spu.edu/soe-doctoral**. If you have questions about either doctoral program or your candidacy, contact Dr. Kris Gritter via email at **grittk@spu.edu** or 206-281-2323.

For questions regarding admission requirements, contact Graduate Admissions at 206-281-2091, 800-601-0603, toll free; or via email at **gradadmissions@spu.edu**.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Seattle Pacific University
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Seattle, WA 98119

spu.edu/graduate

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