

WHICH IS FOR YOU - THE ED.D. OR THE PH.D.?

Ed.D.	Ph.D.
Geared to the practitioner in higher education	Geared to faculty and researchers in higher education
Emphasis on the application of research	Emphasis on the development of theory via research
Primarily consumers of research	Primarily conductors of research
Dissertations are typically problem-based, intervention-oriented, and narrower in scope with a more practical application.	Dissertations are typically more complex in their methodology, wider in scope, and contribute to theory-building in the discipline.
Research requirements: Research Design and Statistics, Qualitative Research, Guided Inquiry Project, and Doctoral Seminar (12 units total)	Research requirements: Research Design and Statistics, Advanced Quantitative Analysis, Qualitative Research, 6 research seminars (1 unit each), and Doctoral Seminar (20 units total)
Twice yearly campus visits (2 weeks each in January and July). Professional conference travel is in conjunction with <i>elective</i> courses.	Twice yearly campus visits (2 weeks each in January and July). Two additional yearly professional conferences are <i>required</i> (usually November at ASHE and March/April at ACPA or AERA) in conjunction with Research Seminars.
Qualifying exams at the end of the 2-unit Guided Inquiry sequence, with questions designed by the faculty research team leader which focus on the problem the team has been exploring for dissertation research.	Comprehensive exams at the end of the third year after completion of foundational coursework. Theory-based essay exams designed by the full faculty and common to all Ph.D. students.
Electives: 6 units	Electives: 4 units
Single concentration of Higher Education Leadership – a core of 12 units	Two concentrations of 12 units each: Organizational Leadership or Student Success
Total units required: 48 beyond the master's degree, not including dissertation units	Total units required: 54 beyond the master's degree, not including dissertation units