



A Member of The Texas State University System

## Center for Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership

### Frequently Asked Questions

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*Q-1. How many hours are required to complete the doctoral program?*

A-1. A total of 60 hours of course work must be completed to earn a Doctor of Education degree.

*Q-2. How long will it take me to graduate?*

A-2. The doctoral program is designed to be completed within eight semesters, including fall, spring, and summer. All course work, including the dissertation defense, counting toward the degree must be completed within a ten year time frame.

*Q-3. How much cost is incurred for a regular fall or spring semester during the doctoral program?*

A-3. Generally, a 3-hour course costs approximately \$600, although this is always subject to change as tuition changes in the state.

- A typical fall or spring semester of nine hours of coursework tuition and fees costs approximately \$1800 to \$2000 excluding books.
- Each course usually requires several textbooks which can be purchased through the university bookstore or online.

*Q-4. Is the program designed to cater to the working professional?*

A-4. Yes. The majority of doctoral students are full-time, working professionals.

- Students are *only* accepted into a cohort (a group) and are expected to remain with the cohort throughout the program. (Exceptions considered due to personal and/or professional needs on an individual basis.)

*Q-5. On what days do classes typically meet?*

A-5. Classes typically meet every other weekend, on Friday evenings (4:30 - 9:00pm) and 8:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays, during a regular semester (generally seven to nine week-ends per semester).

- The summer session begins the first of June and ends mid-August. Meeting dates vary, but continue to follow the week-end format.

*Q-6. My GRE score is over five years old. Must I re-take it to be considered for the program?*

A-6. Not necessarily. If the GRE score is not included on your original transcripts, you must be able to provide the university with at least a copy of the original score report. It does not matter how long ago you took the test.

- The GRE test system does not keep scores beyond five years. If your score is not on your transcript you no longer have an official score report; you will have to re-take the exam.

*Q-7. Will my application be discounted if my GRE score is under 1,000?*

A-7. No. However, entry into the doctoral cohort is a competitive process.

*Q-8. What are the selection criteria to be accepted to the program?*

A-8. The faculty review committee uses a rubric (3 points maximum for each category) of six components to review applications to determine if an interview will be conducted. The rubric considers the following:

1. GRE (V + Q)
  - Recent GRE-takers have a Writing Score which is considered when available.
2.  $\text{GPA} \times 200 + \text{GRE (V + Q)} = \text{or} > 1350$ 
  - 1350 is the minimum score accepted by the Graduate College – scores of less than 1350 receive no points.
3. Years of professional experience in leadership
4. Current leadership position
5. Certificates, awards, publications, presentations, etc.
6. 500-word essay – explaining the need for and intended use of the doctorate

*Q-9. If I apply to the program will I automatically be interviewed?*

A-9. No. Applications are screened using the total rubric (see Q8) score (each category has a maximum of 3 points. Applicants to be interviewed are drawn from this pool. For example, if there are 50 applicants, we generally interview approximately 30 to complete a cohort of 15 to 20 students.

*Q-10. How do I apply for scholarships/loans?*

A-10. Go to the Lamar University website for this information:

For Loan Information: <http://dept.lamar.edu/financialaid/typesofaid.htm>

For Scholarships: <http://dept.lamar.edu/advancement/scholarships/index.asp>

- There are limited scholarship monies available through the doctoral office; these have been designated for second and third year students based on need.

\*For more information call the Doctoral office, (409) 880-8676 or visit us online at <http://dept.lamar.edu/leadership/doctoral>