

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
SANFORD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
ED.D. IN ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TIME COMMITMENT QUESTIONS

What is the expected timeframe for completion of the program? The program is designed so it can be completed in three years depending on the completion of the Culminating Project. Students are required to complete their Culminating Project within seven years of entering the program. Please refer to the National University catalogue for details of the coursework and length of program.

Is it possible to enroll in the Ed.D. program while maintaining a full-time job? Yes, the program is designed for the working professional. It is a doctoral program and students are expected to devote meaningful time to the required coursework and the research necessary to successfully complete the required Culminating Project. Please refer to the description of the Culminating Project in the National University catalogue for details.

PROGRAM FORMAT QUESTIONS

Is the program completely online, without any additional classroom time? While the coursework is completely online, the courses include both asynchronous and synchronous components which will vary by course. Students are required to attend during a set day/time for the synchronous components.

When will the program begin? Cohorts begin twice per year, in September and January. Prior to courses start, Ed.D. Orientation is held at the discretion of the university. The orientation may be in person, with a Zoom option, or it may be held exclusively by Zoom. This information will be included in your acceptance letter.

What is the program schedule? Courses are scheduled to begin the first week of September, the first week of January, and the first week of May. The terms are 12 weeks in duration.

Is there a residency requirement? While the program includes a required 3-day orientation there is no residency requirement. Orientation will allow for face-to-face

interactions with faculty and other students as well as time for activities related to the Ed.D. program.

What does it mean to be in a cohort program? All members of the cohort begin the program at the same time and take all required classes together. Ideally, all members complete the program at the same time. The benefit of this approach is that students grow a community of learners to which they belong while providing intellectual and emotional support creating learning circles that additionally support the cohort design.

ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS

I live outside of California. Will I be considered for NU's Ed.D. in Organizational Innovation? As this is a fully online program, prospective Ed.D. candidates are considered from many states. Please check with an admissions advisor to ensure that the program is offered in your state.

To be considered for the program, do all the requirements need to be sent to Admissions by the deadline? Yes, all requirements must be in the Office of Admissions by 5:00 p.m. PST on the day of the deadline. Completed applications will be reviewed by the Ed.D. Admissions Committee in the order in which they are received. We suggest applying early rather than waiting until the deadline to apply or to send supporting documents. We will not consider applications completed after 5:00 p.m. PST on the day of the deadline.

I took courses at another school that transferred into my degree program and are listed on the degree transcript. Do I still need to send a transcript from the other school for these courses? The Sanford College of Education requires transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. A course considered for transfer must include a course syllabus with a course description in addition to the official transcript. Transfer courses are not considered until after admission.

What are the pre-requisites for participating in this program? Students admitted to this program are expected to have completed both a bachelor's and master's program from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. The master's degree should have a minimum of 36 semester units or 45 quarter units.

What types of candidates and backgrounds are you considering? The online Ed.D. program is designed to prepare graduates to be complex problem solvers

spanning across industries who are leaders in educational sectors of organizations including health care, business, government, non-profit agencies, and education.

Do I have to take a standardized test (i.e. GRE, GMAT, or MAT)?

No.

What should the writing sample look like? The writing sample should be a piece of scholarly work demonstrating an applicant's basic writing and critical thinking skills, which are key to completing any doctoral program successfully. The writing sample should include why you are interested in the study of innovative leadership, your capacity for critical inquiry and creative thinking, and the potential for excellent scholarship. The statement should provide specific examples of each of the areas.

How long will it take for the admissions committee to make their decision? The committee will notify students of their decisions by April 29.

If admitted to the cohort, will I have the option to defer to the next cohort? No. An offer of admission is for the specific cohort for which an application was submitted. An applicant may accept or decline the admission offer. Deferral is not an option. Admission to the next cohort requires submission of an application, application fee, and supporting materials for that cohort.

COST QUESTIONS

What is the cost of the program? The cost of the program includes tuition plus additional fees. Please refer to the website for additional information at: <https://www.nu.edu/Admissions/Financial-Aid-and-Scholarships.html>.

Where can I learn more about financial aid opportunities? Financial aid opportunities can be found on the following website: <http://www.nu.edu/Admissions/Financial-Aid-and-Scholarships.html>.

Are transfer credits accepted? To earn the Ed.D. the student must have completed a minimum of 81 quarter units in the doctoral program at National University. Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 81 quarter units beyond the master's degree which has been granted by an accredited university. Nine quarter units may be considered for transfer upon review and approval by doctoral faculty.

CURRICULUM QUESTIONS

What is the format of the courses? Courses are offered asynchronously online with weekly synchronous sessions on Monday evenings from 5-6 p.m.

Is there an orientation? Ed.D. students who are admitted to the program must attend a 3-day orientation which is held in San Diego. Accommodations are made by the student which is separate from the orientation fee. A list of nearby hotels is supplied by National University. If you are unable to attend the orientation in person, you are required to attend synchronously. At the discretion of the university orientation may be held exclusively by Zoom.

What counts as a Problem of Practice? A problem of practice is an existing or potential problem or dilemma that has practical implications for organizations, individual leaders within educational enterprises, and others in their work. They are problems that make it difficult for an enterprise to meet its ultimate goals. They are problems that impact a particular setting, resonate with current issues and dilemmas in the broader context of the organization, and are most effectively addressed through an innovative design of practice, or possibility thinking.

What is the relationship between the students' context of professional practice and the applied Culminating Project? From the beginning of the program students explore their problem of practice through the lens of both a researcher and practitioner. The research coursework consists of three courses, each 9 quarter units, for a total of 27 units. The Culminating Project is the summative written project stemming from candidate learning within nine courses over three years. It is informed by the candidate's workplace based on their identification of a problem or innovative design of practice that they develop into an applied action research topic. The topic is intentionally narrow as candidates provide both leadership expertise and a comprehensive analysis that informs practice in their workplace. The Culminating Project does not itself address a hypothesis in that it is applied in nature and not theoretical. As a written paper, the Culminating Project begins in Year 1 as a Scope of Study presented to the Chair. In Year 2, a Proposal for an action research project is completed in which Chapters 1-3 are presented to the Committee. During Year 3, having transitioned to candidacy, doctoral candidates gather data and report their findings, as well as conclusions, summary, and recommendations for further study.

What is the Culminating Project Process? The process begins at the orientation. Subsequently, at the end of each year students reach a research milestone where they meet with their faculty advisor to ensure that the scaffolded research

requirements are met as they progress toward the culminating project. This process is facilitated by faculty with expertise in quantitative and qualitative methodologies, bridging theory and practice. The Culminating Project intersects two major program constructs: 1) candidates' expertise to conduct an appropriate applied action research study as related to a problem or innovative design of practice within their workplace; and 2) leadership that generates transformational, innovative, creative solutions to pressing issues and challenges. As aligned to the program's mission completers will have, as both consumers and producers of research, developed into leaders who make a positive difference in a world of increasing complexity and rapid change.

Who should I contact for additional information? Additional information about the Ed.D. program can be found by contacting Ed.D. Interim Program Director, Dr. Teri Marcos, at tmarcos@nu.edu.