

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY ANALYSIS: K-12 LEADERSHIP, PHD

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

Face to Face	Evening/Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	75 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	51 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
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Other Grade Requirements	n/a
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Assessments and Examinations	Doctoral students are required to take a comprehensive preliminary/oral examination after they have cleared their record of all Incomplete and Progress grades (other than research and thesis). Deposit of the doctoral dissertation in the Graduate School is required.
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Language Requirements	None.
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Graduate School Breadth Requirement	All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/).
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REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
	Introduction to the Field	6
These introductory courses lay the foundational framework for work in the department. The Doctoral Inquiry class, ELPA 810, is taken during the first semester of course work, and is required for all incoming PhD students regardless of their area of interest. Students are strongly encouraged to take the second introductory course at the beginning of their studies as well.		
ELPA 702	Introduction to Educational Leadership	
ELPA 810	Doctoral Inquiry in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis	

Core Knowledge 12

The department believes that students in educational administration should be familiar with four program areas of knowledge: (1) Organizations and Planning; (2) Program and Instructional Leadership and Management; (3) Politics, Policy and Finance; and (4) Learning and Diversity.

Knowledge in each of these areas is focused on providing a theoretical and empirical research knowledge base to facilitate improvements in teaching and learning in educational organizations. Students should take one course from each program area. Students who have taken similar courses at other institutions and are transferring credits for those courses should take an advanced or related ELPA course in each area identified through consultation with their advisor.

Organizations and Planning (Select 1 course)

Knowledge of classic and emerging theoretical approaches to organizations; Understanding and interpreting organizational experience; Decision making; Planning and evaluation; Key relationships between organizations and their environments.

ELPA 860	Organizational Theory and Behavior in Education
ELPA 875	Theory and Practice of Educational Planning

Program and Instructional Leadership and Management (Select 1 course)

Leadership theory; Effective leadership; Functional, symbolic, political, and human aspects of leadership; Leading change; Conflict resolution; Empowerment; Sharing leadership; Motivation of self and others; Ethical and moral dimensions of leadership.

ELPA 845 School-Level Leadership

ELPA 847 Instructional Leadership and Teacher Capacity

Politics, Policy and Finance (Select 1 course)

Educational governance; Operating within a political environment; Understanding and interpreting political context; Principles of design and implementation of educational policies; Sources of revenues; Effective expenditure of educational dollars; Equity and adequacy issues.

ELPA 832 Resource Allocation for Equity and Social Justice

ELPA 840 Public School Law

ELPA 870 The Politics of Education

Learning and Diversity (Select 1 course)

Addressing the diverse learning needs of students; Professional development; Managing academic program, curriculum and instruction to promote student learning; Administering learning and co-curricular activities to reflect students' common and distinct experiential base.

ELPA 735 Leadership for Equity and Diversity

ELPA 848 Professional Development and Organizational Learning

Program Depth**9**

The department believes that students should have depth in at least one of the four program areas: (1) Organizations and Planning; (2) Program and Instructional Leadership and Management; (3) Politics, Policy and Finance; OR (4) Learning and Diversity. Therefore, the department requires that students in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis select 1 of the 4 domains and take at least 3 ADDITIONAL courses in that program area.

If courses from other departments are permitted in one of the depth areas, at least one of the three additional courses must be an ELPA course.

Organizations and Planning

ELPA 860 Organizational Theory and Behavior in Education

ELPA 875 Theory and Practice of Educational Planning

ELPA 940 Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership

M H R 872 Seminar in Organizational Behavior and Design

SOC 632 Sociology of Organizations

OTM 770 Sustainable Approaches to System Improvement

Program and Instructional Leadership and Management

ELPA 863 Race, Class and Educational Inequality

ELPA 940 Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership

ELPA 844 Technology and School Leadership

ELPA 845 School-Level Leadership

ELPA 846 The School Superintendency

ELPA 726 Data-Based Decision-Making for Educational Leadership

ELPA 848 Professional Development and Organizational Learning

Politics, Policy, and Finance

ELPA/INTER-HE 770 Community, Opportunity, and Justice

ELPA 832 Resource Allocation for Equity and Social Justice

ELPA 840 Public School Law

ELPA/ED POL/ED PSYCH/RP & SE 842 Legal Foundations of Special Education and Pupil Services

ELPA 910 Seminar in Educational Law

ELPA 960 Seminar in Educational Finance

ELPA 965 Seminar in the Politics of Education

ELPA 940 Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership

ED POL 600 Problems in Educational Policy

ED POL/ELPA/PUB AFFR 765 Issues in Educational Policy Analysis

ECON 711 Economic Theory-Microeconomics Sequence

ECON 712 Economic Theory-Macroeconomics Sequence

ECON 741 Theory of Public Finance and Fiscal Policy

ECON 742 Theory of Public Finance and Fiscal Policy

PUB AFFR 869 Workshop in Public Affairs

PUB AFFR/POLI SCI 871 Public Program Evaluation

PUB AFFR/POLI SCI/URB R PL 874 Policy-Making Process

PUB AFFR 974 Topics in Public Affairs

PUB AFFR 880 Microeconomic Policy Analysis

PUB AFFR/A A E/ENVIR ST/POP HLTH 881 Benefit-Cost Analysis

PUB AFFR/POLI SCI/URB R PL 890 Federal Budget and Tax Policy and Administration

PUB AFFR 891 State and Local Government Finance

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ELPA/INTER-HE 770 Community, Opportunity, and Justice

Learning and Diversity

ELPA 863 Race, Class and Educational Inequality

ELPA 940	Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership
ELPA 703	Evaluating and Supporting Quality Classroom Teaching
ELPA 735	Leadership for Equity and Diversity
ELPA 848	Professional Development and Organizational Learning
CURRIC 704	Curriculum Planning

Electives 15

Students may take any five courses inside or outside of the Department, to provide depth or breadth to program focus. Students are reminded that their programs must include at least 39 credits taken from ELPA. Note that electives are separate from minor/supporting coursework.

Breadth 12

Breadth is a rational, unified set of courses taken outside of the department which have a clearly articulated theme or focus which allows the student to develop knowledge in a related area of study. Students may either pursue a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Students should initiate contact and approval from the minor or graduate/professional certificate department. Students must complete an additional 3 credits of course work outside of the department in order to satisfy the supporting coursework requirement for the department. At least two courses (6 credits) must be completed during or after the semester in which the student is admitted to the PhD program.

Research Methods and Design 12

Students must complete a sequence of courses in research methods and design, focusing on either quantitative or qualitative methods. Students choosing to focus on quantitative methods should take two statistical methods courses and one qualitative methods course. Students choosing to focus on qualitative methods should take two qualitative methods courses and one statistical methods course. After the methods requirement has been met, all students should take the research design course (ELPA 825). Substitutions for ELPA 825 are not allowed.

Quantitative Methods

ELPA/ ED PSYCH 822	Introduction to Quantitative Inquiry in Education
ELPA 823	Data Management for Education Policy Analysis
ELPA/ ED PSYCH 827	Surveys and Other Quantitative Data Collection Strategies
ELPA 940	Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership
ED PSYCH 760	Statistical Methods Applied to Education I
ED PSYCH 761	Statistical Methods Applied to Education II
SOC/ C&E SOC 360	Statistics for Sociologists I
SOC/ C&E SOC 361	Statistics for Sociologists II
STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods

Qualitative Methods

ELPA/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ED POL/ ED PSYCH/ RP & SE 719	Introduction to Qualitative Research
ELPA/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ED POL/ ED PSYCH/ RP & SE 788	Qualitative Research Methods in Education: Field Methods I
ELPA/ COUN PSY/ CURRIC/ED POL/ ED PSYCH/ RP & SE 789	Qualitative Research Methods in Education: Field Methods II
ELPA 824	Field Research Designs & Methodologies in Educational Administration
ELPA 940	Special Topics Seminar in Educational Leadership
ED POL/ C&E SOC/ SOC 755	Methods of Qualitative Research
CURRIC 718	Introduction to Narrative Inquiry
CURRIC 802	Discourse Analysis

Research Design

ELPA 825	Advanced Research Methods in Educational Administration
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Thesis 9

Students are required to complete a minimum of nine credits of research/thesis and/or independent reading. While nine credits is the minimum required, there is no maximum.

ELPA 990	Research or Thesis
ELPA 999	Independent Reading

Total Credits 75

Practicum

The program includes a practicum experience that requires 150 contact hours for an initial administrator license and an additional 75 hours for each additional administrative license. Practicums are completed under the guidance of department faculty.

Portfolio

[Submission and approval of an online portfolio is required for both degree completion and certification. Portfolio requirements are available on the department website.](#)