

UELP/EDD Dissertation Requirements

The Ed.D. in Education Leadership requires the successful completion of a dissertation study approved by a committee of no more than three faculty members (a sponsor and at least one other member from the Education Leadership program) on a topic related to urban education leadership. Candidates can conduct traditional or action research dissertations (Herr & Anderson, 2014), so long as they demonstrate their ability to conduct empirical research and generate new knowledge that contributes to the study or practice of education leadership with a focus on urban contexts. Examples of dissertation topics currently being explored by existing UELP scholars include: (a) culturally responsive school leadership and the urban school principalship, (b) school district leadership and policy implementation for education of emergent bilingual students, (c) principal evaluation as a means for growth in urban school systems, (d) and a case study of English Language Learner policies in Arizona.

Although UELP students enjoy flexibility when it comes to the content and design their dissertation study, UELP dissertations are typically organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Review of the Literature (Conceptual Framework)
- Chapter 3 Methodology
- Chapter 4 Results or Findings
- Chapter 5 Interpretations, Conclusions, and Recommendations
- References
- Appendices

From the program's start, UELP students are encouraged to explore and consider problem statements and research questions while they engage in course taking and related learning activities as a community of scholar-practitioners. Dissertation writing is embedded throughout the program ensuring students are well-versed in the academic and technical expectations of the dissertation and receive the guidance and support needed to complete their dissertations within one to three years of finishing

coursework as part-time students working in full-time leadership positions. Program faculty and adjunct instructors will serve as dissertation committee members, with the UELP co-directors making a sincere effort to avoid over-loading individual professors with dissertation committee commitments.