Frequently Asked Questions

EdD in Higher Education Leadership, Executive Track

What makes the University of Miami’s Executive EdD program unique?

We believe there are a combination of practical and content-based factors that contribute to the success of students who choose the University of Miami’s Executive EdD program.

Practically, the Executive Track is explicitly designed to meet the needs of working professionals aspiring to senior leadership positions in educational organizations, colleges, and universities. It has a rigorous executive-style format. Courses are offered on weekends to meet the needs of working professionals, and a cohort design allows students to develop meaningful relationships, support one another, and learn from the diverse experiences of fellow educators. Also, the intensive timeline makes it possible for students to complete the doctorate in three years.

Content-wise, an emphasis across the EdD curriculum is on how theory and empirical evidence inform the administrative, organizational, and policy contexts within postsecondary education. Taught by a blend of full-time program faculty and senior administrators from diverse practical backgrounds, the courses give students a comprehensive grounding in the history and contemporary environment of higher education as well as the theoretical and evidentiary foundations on which the field is based. In addition, the Enrollment Management sequence is a component of the Foundations courses unique to the University of Miami’s EdD program. Enrollment Management is a comprehensive strategy that promotes the seamless integration of administrative responsibilities to efficiently and effectively meet institutional needs and promote student success.

Can I begin the Executive EdD in the spring or summer term, or are students only accepted to begin in the fall semester?

We currently only accept students to join a cohort beginning each Fall semester. The reason is that our courses are designed to be taken sequentially, and the content is scaffolded as students move forward in the program. In the first Fall semester of the program, students are exposed to foundational concepts related to higher education as a field of study and practice, including core theoretical frameworks, basics of higher education research, and the role of enrollment management in college and university administration. This is an essential starting point for subsequent courses. Also, the cohort design allows students to develop meaningful relationships, support one another, and learn from the diverse experiences of fellow educators.
Why is “college or university work experience” one of the admissions requirements?

The reason for this requirement is that the curriculum of the EdD program is designed for practitioners. Classes emphasize the application of theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence to real-world college and university environments; EdD student familiarity with the latter is assumed.

Moreover, the culmination of an EdD degree is successful completion of a dissertation that studies a topic or problem specific to an individual’s interests and experience as a higher education practitioner. So in order to get the dissertation done, students need to have an idea of the issues they are interested in studying!

What if my GRE score is below your stated admissions requirement?

Admission to the program typically requires a minimum GRE score of approximately 297 in the Verbal and Quantitative areas and a minimum score of 4.0 in the Analytical Writing portion of the GRE test. Applicants with scores below these minimums are commonly encouraged to prepare for the test and re-take it, though inquiries about individual cases should be made to the program director.

When is the application deadline every year?

The program has a rolling admissions process, which means applications are reviewed as they are submitted up to six weeks prior to the start of the Fall semester applied to. However, most students apply before March 1st, because this is the preferred deadline for the federal financial aid application. Also, note that applications must be complete, which includes the submission of official GRE scores, before the admissions committee will review it.

Are there any open house or tour opportunities available?

Program faculty participate in graduate fairs in South Florida, and information about these will be posted online. Students interested in visiting the University of Miami campus in order to speak to program faculty and students are highly encouraged to do so. Such visits are coordinated by the program director, Dr. Carol-Anne Phekoo, and she can be contacted at 305-284-5013 or cphekoo@miami.edu.
How often do classes meet?

The University of Miami’s program relies on a rigorous executive-style format. Courses are offered on weekends (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays) to meet the needs of working professionals. Each Fall and Spring courses will typically meet once per month, four times during the semester, from 8:00am to 6:30pm. A sample schedule is online at:

http://www.education.miami.edu/Program/Pdf/HELDEX-EdD-Schedule.pdf

Is the Executive EdD offered online?

No, while classes are supplemented with online discussion boards, blogs, etc. and may on occasion be offered as hybrids or fully online, the Executive EdD program is designed to have a core face-to-face instructional component. There are students who have lived and worked outside of South Florida, including Latin and South America, and these students commuted to the University of Miami’s Coral Gables campus for the monthly face-to-face classes. Information about local hotels and accommodations is provided to admitted students in the program’s handbook, but the responsibility to make these arrangements is the individual student’s.

What type of funding support is available to Executive EdD students? Are there graduate assistantships?

The Executive EdD is designed for working practitioners. The course formats, designs, and schedules explicitly assume that students are currently full-time (and occasionally part-time) working professionals. Most are employed as administrators or faculty at colleges and universities, though some are in non-profit organizations, private for-profits, or K-12 school systems.

There are not any graduate assistantships awarded through the University of Miami’s Executive EdD program. The reason being, doctoral level graduate assistantships commonly require a research, teaching, or administrative work component during the traditional “9 to 5” workweek, which is not feasible for the students in the Executive EdD program in addition to their primary jobs and program coursework.

Need-based financial aid is available to Executive EdD students. The University of Miami Office of Financial Assistance will guide students through the process of applying for and receiving a need-based financial aid award. Their main webpage for graduate study is: http://www.miami.edu/index.php/office_of_financial_assistance/g/ Also, you can call them at 305-284-5212 or email at oafs@miami.edu
What is the “qualifying examination”?

EdD students are admitted to doctoral candidacy after passing a qualifying examination, typically administered at the end of their second year in the program. The purpose of the written exam is to evaluate mastery and synthesis of subject matter presented in the initial two years, including students' capacity to apply this knowledge to practical settings and problems.

How long will it take to finish the EdD?

The program has an intensive timeline, and a total of 60 credits beyond the master’s degree are required to earn the EdD in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Miami. Students enroll in courses year-round, and most are able to complete the doctorate in three years.

What kind of job can I get after graduation?

The EdD in Higher Education Leadership prepares students for senior leadership positions in colleges and universities (e.g., academic department chairs, deans, vice presidents, provosts, presidents), state and federal agencies (e.g., policy analysts), and other educational and not-for-profit organizations (e.g., directors).

Toppel Career Center has resources to support the job search process of all University of Miami graduates, including those in the Executive EdD program. More information is online at: http://www.sa.miami.edu/toppel/mainSite/students/default.aspx