

NEIU's Ed.D. Program: A Status Update
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This update consists of three components: a program overview, curricular revisions, and next steps.

Program overview

NEIU's EdD program will build the professional capacities of educational practitioners, advocates, and leaders whose work occurs in a range of settings including k-12 schools, higher education, museums, libraries, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. It will help our students to be better practitioners in the communities and institutions in which they serve. Doctoral students will engage in an exploration of education across disciplines via a dynamic curriculum considering topics as varied as globalization, restorative justice practices, urban ecology, change management, data analysis, and more. Further, we seek to support the development of our students' scholar-practitioner identities via research skills which will empower them to critically analyze and address a range of problems and to devise novel solutions to them. Doctoral students' dissertation projects will enable them to apply their burgeoning knowledge of research methodology to their classrooms, workplaces, communities, or other settings.

Curriculum revisions

In July 2022, NEIU contracted CiTTA Partnership to conduct a market research study for the EdD program. This study highlighted a number of market factors relevant to optimizing program success. Also, as per CiTTA Partnership's recommendations, the doctoral program's initial curriculum has been streamlined. This has entailed the elimination of concurrent courses, incorporation of two existing courses, and other changes. Additionally, we have aligned the dissertation process with the recommendations of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) as a means to empower students to effectively address problems of practice via their dissertation research. Presently the EdD program is designed to be a sixty semester hour program that can be completed in a minimum of three years.

Next steps

The following represents the timeline of future events relevant to establishing the doctoral program.

During the Spring 2023 semester, we will contract faculty for course development. During Summer 2023, we will complete course development, finalize program policies, and select a new name for the program. We will also initiate the review process for the EdD program through university governance. In Spring 2024 we will submit the program to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission for review. We anticipate launching the program in Spring or Fall 2025.