

## Doctor of Education Admission Criteria and Application Process

The Northwestern State University Doctor of Education degree program seeks to develop the knowledge and skills that will enable graduates to excel and innovate in their chosen field. To achieve this end, the program establishes a dynamic and collegial community of students, faculty and stakeholders who are passionate about learning, innovation, and effecting positive change. These admission criteria help ensure that students are able to maximize growth and realize their potential in their chosen field of work and study.

For both the spring and fall cohorts, the application window opens on the first day of classes of the fall semester (see NSU academic calendar) for the following spring and fall cohorts. For the spring cohort, the online application and all other application components must be received by the Graduate School no later than **November 4th**. For the fall cohort, the application and all materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than **March 1st**.

The Doctor of Education Program admits students through a selective, competitive application and interview process. Admission requirements are in accordance with Northwestern State University's Graduate School requirements found in the current Northwestern catalog, with the addition of the following application components and admission requirements\*:

- GRE scores with a minimum of 280 combined verbal and quantitative, or other approved professional examination score, such as PRAXIS.
- Completed online Graduate School application. For your plan of study, select *Doctor of Education in Adult Learning and Development* from the drop-down menu on page #1 of the application. On page #2 of the application, select the *Community College Leadership* concentration or the *Adult Learning and Workforce Development* concentration. <https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/admissions/>
- Official graduate transcripts from all universities/colleges you have attended, *regardless of whether or not a degree was awarded* – Submit transcripts via e-Script or mail/email to [Grad\\_School@nsula.edu](mailto:Grad_School@nsula.edu)
- The following documents should be emailed to [Grad\\_School@nsula.edu](mailto:Grad_School@nsula.edu):
  - Resume or curriculum vitae.
  - Writing sample - Must be a research-based or academic paper, such as a research paper from a master's program.
  - Statement of purpose – Include the applicant's reason for applying and preparation for the program; strengths and experiences that are relevant; and how the program can help the applicant realize expectations and goals.
  - Three letters of recommendation - Must be from people who have supervised the applicant in an academic, employment, or other similar setting. Do not use the recommendation form on the Graduate School page.

### Additional Admission Requirements and Policies\*

All requirements for admission to the Graduate School and master's degree programs, plus:

- Earned master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0
- GRE requirements are waived if the applicant earned a master's degree with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50
- There is no conditional or provisional admission to the Doctor of Education
- Applicants must have all application components on file by the specified deadline and meet all admission criteria prior to acceptance to the doctoral program
- Any defined special requirements of the department for the degree to be pursued

\* Selected applicants who meet the admission requirements may be invited to interview with the Doctoral Admission Committee. Meeting all application and admission requirements and interviewing with the selection committee does not guarantee acceptance into the doctoral program. The spring cohort size is approximately 5 students, while the fall cohort is approximately 20 students. Applicants not accepted to the spring cohort will automatically be considered for the following fall cohort unless the Graduate School is notified otherwise.

