



Career Acceleration Virtual Event Series Fall 2023

Applying to Doctoral Programs in Education: Making your Applications Stand Out

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER 11, 2023 | 7pm EDT

<Thank you for your responses from your registration forms>

What do you hope to gain?

- Information for doctoral programs in education. Understanding if a doctoral program is for me
- I am planning to apply and would like to know how to focus my personal statement in my application. What makes a successful application?
- To learn more about the cost of the doctoral program and the course/classes for the doctoral program.
- Recommendations regarding the process of transitioning into higher education (from applying for and attending graduate school, navigating a Ph.D. program, and the processes that follow)
- I would like to know next steps, financial aid, and support where available.
- I have spent many years considering going back to school for my doctorate, I'd love to understand the differences in program types, fields of study, etc. for someone who wants to stay in the field doing work (and not necessarily move to research).

Questions for our presenters?



- What are make or break pieces of a scholar's application? What additional documents would be helpful to include with a doctoral application (specifically Higher Education Leadership) for schools to get an idea of your strengths?
- Although optional, are GRE scores helpful to a strong application?
- How personal should we make the personal statement if it mentions academic and professional journeys only?
- Any advice on how to search for the right institution and scholarships? What scholarships and funding are available?
- How does the online program compare in rigor and opportunities as the residence?
- Which programs provide opportunities to publish research or present at conferences?
- How competitive are teaching fellowships? Should I plan to be teaching while I'm earning my doctorate?
- What kind of position can I have if I pursue a doctorate in education? If my masters in education, can I obtain a doctorate in something that's not education?
- Should you have an idea of dissertation before applying or starting a program? How to decide on a dissertation focus when so many areas of interest. How to manage doctors studies while teaching and working full time.



Teach For
America

Welcome!

Career Acceleration Event Series

HOSTED BY THE TEACH FOR AMERICA CAREER CENTER AND
SELECT PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS.

ENGAGE IN CAREER ACCELERATING TOPICS TO HELP INSPIRE
AND SUPPORT MINDSETS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT
ADVANCE YOUR CAREER.

Career Acceleration Virtual Events Series Line-up



Register for any of the events on TFA's [Alumni Hub](#)

- 1 **10/5: Leadership in Action: Defining your Personal Leadership Philosophy and Overcoming Imposter Syndrome** | Presented by Claremont Lincoln University
- 2 **10/11: Applying to Doctoral Programs in Education: Making Your Application Stand Out** | Presented by Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 3 **10/18: How to Design a Career You Love**
Presented by Mission Collaborative
- 4 **10/26: Building Inclusive Learning Environments: Collaborative Strategies for Educators and Stakeholders** | Presented by Teachers College, Columbia University
- 5 **11/1: Edtech Insights: A Fireside Chat with Industry Veterans** | Presented by AllCourse, Kaplan, and Youtube/Google



WELCOME!



Presented by
Harvard Graduate
School of Education
Admissions,
Financial Aid, and
Doctoral Programs

[<PRESENTATION LINK>](#)

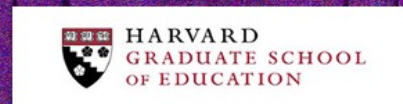
Considering doctoral study? Choose the right program to stand out.

Career Acceleration Virtual Event Series
Join us for an event exploring doctoral study and
how to make your application competitive.

Hosted by:



In partnership with:



Learn to
Change
the World

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION



Applying to Doctoral Programs: Making Your Application Stand Out

Harvard Graduate School of Education

10/11/23



Overview

- Review doctoral degrees in the Education field
- Discuss considerations for applying to doctoral study
- Learn best practices of researching, selecting, and applying to programs





DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

**DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY IN
EDUCATION
(Ph.D.)**

**DOCTOR OF
EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP
(Ed. L.D.)**

**Doctor of Education
(Ed.D.)**



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION—Ph.D.

- **Goal:** train aspiring academics, researchers, policymakers, and leaders to improve education through novel research
- **Typical Components:** coursework, research apprenticeship, comprehensive exams, and dissertation that contributes novel research
- **Typical Completion:** 4-7 years, depending on dissertation timeline*
- **Ideal Candidates:** those with strong academic preparation and prior research experience, often at the master's level



DOCTOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP—Ed.L.D.

- **Goal:** Prepare graduates to lead system-level transformation of the American PreK-12 education by leveraging organizational management skills, effective leadership strategies, a firm understanding of policy and politics, and visionary ideas regarding learning and development.
- **Typical Components:** Cohort-wide coursework (Y1), Individualized electives (Y2), Residency and Capstone (Y3)
- **Completion Timeline:** 3 years
- **Ideal Candidates:** Emerging education leaders with substantial professional experience and commitment to improving equity



DOCTOR OF EDUCATION—Ed.D.

- **Goal:** train aspiring leaders to solve practical problems within education by applying research, leadership best practices, and professional expertise
- **Typical Components:** coursework, examinations, dissertation or applied project
- **Typical Completion:** 3-7 years, depending on capstone requirements
- **Ideal Candidates:** those with substantial professional experience and sometimes a master's degree

Panel: Why Doctoral Study?

Clara Lau
Director for Doctoral Studies

Frank Arce, Ed.D.
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

Matthew Lenard
Current Ph.D. student

Tamesha Webb
Current Ed.L.D. student

Researching the Program



Considerations

- Orientation: research, practice, or some combination?
- Mission and Goals
- Faculty Advisors (and coursework)
- Current students: What are their aims? What are they pursuing? What kind of community might you expect?
- Alumni Outcomes: What does the career trajectory look like?



Considerations

Prerequisites

- Academic background
- Occupational setting
- Years of Experience
- Minimum Scores or GPA

Application Timeline and Requirements

- Statements of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Writing Sample

Funding



Considerations

What is valued within the Admissions process? At HGSE, we assess:

- Commitment to positive impact on the field
- Relevant preparation
 - Academic ability
 - Professional accomplishments
 - Training, skills, and research experience
- Fit with program and HGSE mission
- Both what you will gain and what you can contribute





DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN EDUCATION

- Interfaculty program offered through the Harvard Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- Prepares academics, researchers, policymakers, and leaders who will improve education through rigorous scholarship
- Students complete a dissertation exploring original research
- 3 Concentrations
 - Culture, Institutions, and Society (CIS)
 - Education Policy and Program Evaluation (EPPE)
 - Human Development, Learning and Teaching (HDLT)



ACADEMIC ROADMAP – THE FIRST TWO YEARS

Students must complete a minimum of 64 credits/16 courses toward the degree, along with other academic and research-related requirements including:

- PhD Proseminar in Education (Year 1 fall; 1 course)
- Concentration Core Seminar (Year 1 spring; 1 course)
- Foundational Quantitative Methods Courses (2 courses)
- Foundational Qualitative Methods Course (1 course)
- Additional Qualitative Methods Course (1 course)
- Concentration Electives (3 courses)
- General Electives (5 courses)
- Research Apprenticeship (each year)
- Reading Time (written comprehensive exam preparation; Year 2 spring, 1 course)
- Written Comprehensive Examination (Year 2 spring)
- Research Colloquia (Years 1 and 2; 1 course per year)



ACADEMIC ROADMAP YEAR THREE

- Any outstanding coursework
- Oral Comprehensive Examination
- Research apprenticeship
- Teaching Fellow appointment(s) (four “slots” required at HGSE, typically fulfilled in Years 3 and 4)
- Research Colloquium presentation (Year 3, 4, 5, or 6)

ACADEMIC ROADMAP YEARS FOUR-SIX

- Dissertation Proposal (to be completed by the end of Year 4)
- Research apprenticeship
- Teaching Fellow appointment(s) (four “slots” required at HGSE, typically fulfilled in Years 3 and 4)
- Dissertation Committee Meeting (Year 4 or 5)
- Dissertation and Dissertation Defense (Year 4, 5, or 6)



PH.D. FUNDING (HARVARD GRIFFIN GSAS)

YEARS 1 AND 2

Tuition, health fees, and stipend

YEARS 3 AND 4

Tuition, health fees, and guaranteed income through teaching and research assistantships

YEAR 5

Tuition and health fees

DISSERTATION COMPLETION YEAR

Tuition, health fees, and stipend





DOCTOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

- Three-year practice-based doctorate
- Prepares graduates to lead system-level transformation of the American PreK-12 education sector
- Full-time, in-person program
 - Year 1: Cohort-wide coursework (HGSE)
 - Year 2: Individualized electives (HGSE)
 - Year 3: Residency and Capstone (at residency)
- Spaces of impact:
 - PreK-12 district
 - Education non-profit
 - State or federal education policy
 - Foundations and philanthropy
 - Social entrepreneurship and innovation

ED.L.D. CURRICULUM – YEAR ONE

	UNIT	LEAD FACULTY	SEMESTER
HPL101	HOW PEOPLE LEARN (OPTIONAL)	HGSE FACULTY	SUMMER
A608	LEADERSHIP, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEARNING	MONICA HIGGINS	FALL
L100	THE WORKPLACE LAB	MARY GRASSA O'NEILL/FRANK BARNES	YEARLONG
L102	LEADERS OF LEARNING	JENNIFER CHEATHAM	FALL
L103	THINKING STRATEGICALLY ABOUT EDUCATION REFORM	ROB WESSMAN	FALL
L104	PRACTICING LEADERSHIP INSIDE AND OUT	CANDICE CRAWFORD-ZAKIAN	YEARLONG
L106	RACE, EQUITY, AND LEADERSHIP	FRANK BARNES	SPRING
L107	LEADING WITH THE BOARD	PAUL REVILLE	SPRING
L108	SECTOR CHANGE	IRVIN SCOTT	SPRING





ED.L.D. CURRICULUM YEAR TWO

- Evidence (August, prior to Year 2)
- Integrative core seminar
- Elective courses at HGSE, HBS, HKS, and other Harvard graduate schools

ED.L.D. CURRICULUM YEAR THREE

- Paid residency, leading and contributing to significant improvement efforts
- Strategic project
- Capstone



SAMPLE YEAR TWO ELECTIVES

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- Introduction to Education Finance and Budgeting
- Understanding Today's Educational Testing
- Urban Education
- Transforming Education through Emerging Technologies

HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

- Building and Sustaining a Successful Enterprise
- The Moral Leader
- Authentic Leadership Development

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

- Exercising Leadership: The Politics of Change
- Science of Behavior Change: Judgment and Decision Making
- Women and Leadership

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

- The Art of Social Change: Child Welfare, Education and Juvenile Justice
- Negotiation Workshop





ED.L.D. FUNDING

YEARS 1 AND 2

Tuition, health fees, and stipend and/or campus-based work opportunities

YEAR 3

Tuition, health fees, and paid residency

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Online application form

Statement of Purpose

Resume

Transcripts

Three Letters of Recommendation

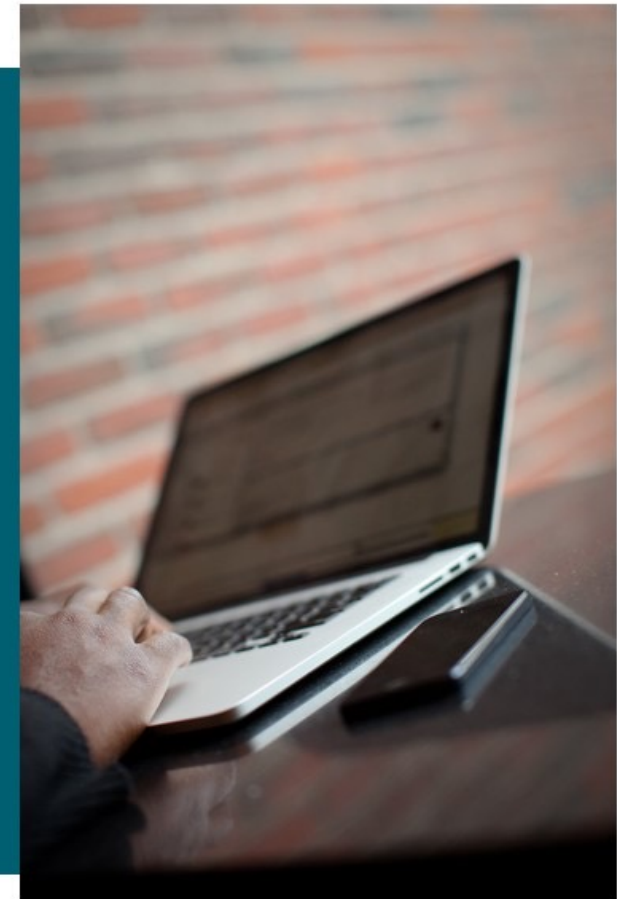
Short answer responses

TOEFL or IELTS (if applicable)

Program-specific requirements

- Short essay for Ed.L.D.
- Personal Statement for Ph.D.
- Doctoral to Ed.M. referral option

STANDARDIZED TESTING IS NOT REQUIRED





APPLICATION TIMELINE

	APPLICATION DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION
PH.D.	December 1, 2023 (5:00 p.m. EST)	Late February 2024 (Interviews for finalists Jan 2024)
ED.L.D.	December 15, 2023 (11:59 p.m. EST)	Early March 2024 (Interviews for finalists Feb 2024)
ED.M.	January 5, 2024 (11:59 p.m. EST)	Early March 2024

APPLICATION STRATEGIES



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Choose individuals who know you well

Letters should address both academic and professional abilities

Ask your recommenders far in advance

You may want to provide recommenders with additional context—reason for pursuing graduate school, a draft of your statement of purpose, your resume

You cannot be involved in the drafting, writing, or submitting of your letters

Recommendation letters must be submitted by the application deadline





STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Your voice in the application

Describe your journey to this point

Articulate your goals

For the Ph.D. application, describe your area of research and the need for this work

Demonstrate how this specific program will help you achieve them

Don't rehash your resume

Edit and ask for feedback

Remember this is also a **writing sample**



STRONG STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

- Introduction to the candidate
- Mission/commitment to improve outcomes in education
- How relevant academic and professional experiences have prepared you and inspired you
- Goals for graduate study and long-term impact
- How this [articular school/program can help you achieve your goals



PH.D. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Potential research
 - What experiences led you to your research ambitions?
 - Why is there a need for further research in this area?
 - How do you anticipate your research fitting in within the larger education sector?
- You may indicate which faculty you would like to study with

Panel: Application Strategies

Clara Lau
Director of Doctoral Studies

Frank Arce, Ed.D.
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

Matthew Lenard
Current Ph.D. student

Tamesha Webb
Current Ed.L.D. student

APPLYING INSIGHTS AND BRAINSTORMING



SOP BRAINSTORMING

- What key experiences have contributed to your passion for, and commitment to, education?
- What do you hope to achieve in your career? What kind of impact do you want to make?
- What knowledge, skills, and tools do you want to develop that will allow you to take the next step in your career?



SOP BRAINSTORMING

- What are you hoping to gain from graduate school? How will you gain this, specifically?
- What specific components of the program do you foresee helping you reach your goals?
- Why is X School the best place for you to achieve your goals?
- What can you contribute to your cohort?
- How do you support and/or align with the school's mission?



PREPARING TO APPLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Application Support Sessions
throughout November

October Open House
October 27, 2023

Find Yourself Here
October 28, 2023
drp.gse.harvard.edu

gseadmissions@harvard.edu



VIEW AND
REGISTER FOR
UPCOMING
ADMISSIONS AND
FINANCIAL AID
EVENTS



Learn to
Change
the World

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◆ Thank you!



A post-event Email will be sent
on **October, 20th** with the event
recording and resources.

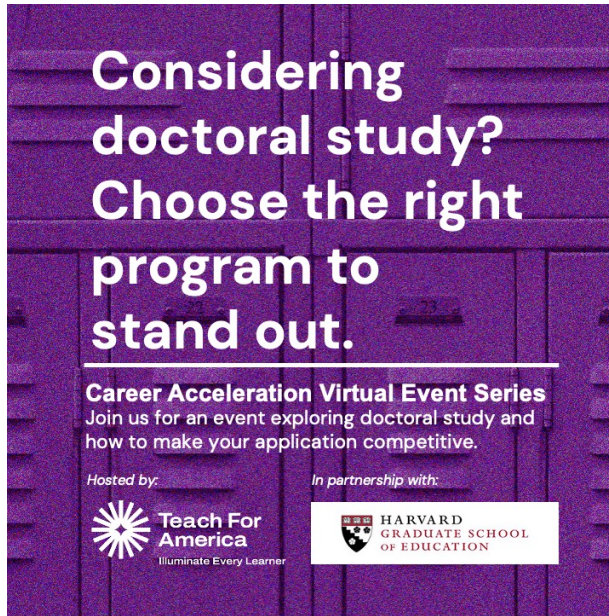
◆ Thank You!



We'd Love Your Feedback. Please take a moment to complete the brief survey. Your responses will help us evaluate and design programming to continue to support and develop our network. **All survey responses are anonymous.**


Thank You For Joining Tonight's Event


For even more ways to connect with TFA's alumni network, explore the wealth of resources, events, and more on our online platform: [TFA Alumni Hub](#).



**Considering doctoral study?
Choose the right program to stand out.**

Career Acceleration Virtual Event Series
Join us for an event exploring doctoral study and how to make your application competitive.

Hosted by:  **Teach For America**
Illuminate Every Learner

In partnership with:  **HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**



Alumni
Hub