

HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION (PH.D.) - STUDENT AFFAIRS

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

This is a non-licensure degree. Completion of this degree will not lead to the eligibility of a state educator license in Virginia or a license or certificate in any other state for endorsements in teaching, special education, content specialist, or school building-level administration.

Code	Title	Hours
Higher Education Core Courses		
EDUC 758	Teaching the College Student	3
EDUC 759	College and University Administration	3
EDUC 782	Historical Perspectives of Higher Education	3
EDUC 783	Economic Impact in Higher Education	3
EDUC 784	Assessment & Accreditation	3
Total Hours		15

Code	Title	Hours
Student Affairs Cognate		
EDUC 785	Current Issues and Trends in Student Affairs	3
EDUC 786	Leadership and Administration in Student Affairs	3
EDUC 787	Legal Issues and Policies in Student Affairs	3
Education Elective ¹		3
Total Hours		12

¹ Choose any 500-800 level EDUC course except EDUC 798

Code	Title	Hours
Research Courses		
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
EDUC 980	Quantitative Research Concepts and Methodology ¹	3
Choose one of the following:		3
EDUC 915	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research	
EDUC 917	Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	
Total Hours		18

¹ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase (after completion of EDUC 980), they must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I ¹	5

Code	Title	Hours
EDUC 988	Dissertation II ¹	5
EDUC 989	Dissertation III ¹	5
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
Total Hours		15

¹ Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, EDUC 988, EDUC 989 only one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 60 hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than a B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful defense of dissertation
- Degree must be completed within 7 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Online Format Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 758	Teaching the College Student	3
EDUC 782	Historical Perspectives of Higher Education	3
EDUC 759	College and University Administration	3
EDUC 785	Current Issues and Trends in Student Affairs	3
Hours		12

Second Semester		
EDUC 786	Leadership and Administration in Student Affairs	3
EDUC 812	Advanced Educational Statistics	3
EDUC 787	Legal Issues and Policies in Student Affairs	3
EDUC 815	Quantitative Methods of Research	3
Hours		12

Second Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 783	Economic Impact in Higher Education	3
EDUC 817	Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 784	Assessment & Accreditation	3
EDUC 860	Literature Review for Advanced Research	3
Hours		12

Second Semester		
EDUC Elective ¹		3

Course	Title	Hours
EDUC 915 or EDUC 917	Advanced Quantitative Methods of Research or Advanced Qualitative Methods of Research	3
EDUC 980	Research Concepts & Methodology ²	3
Hours		9
Third Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 987	Dissertation I ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 988	Dissertation II ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Fourth Year		
First Semester		
EDUC 989	Dissertation III ^{2,3}	5
Hours		5
Second Semester		
EDUC 990	Dissertation IV	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		60

¹ Choose any 500-800 level EDUC course except EDUC 798

² Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

³ Ph.D. students are allowed to enroll in EDUC 987, 988, and 989 only one time. Extensions for exceptional circumstances must be approved by the School of Education.