

EdD IN EDUCATION POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

American University's part-time, online EdD in Education Policy and Leadership program empowers education leaders who have the practical experience and theoretical knowledge to effect widespread, progressive change in the field. The program strengthens students' knowledge, skills, and leadership mindset across four key domains:

Systems Change

Personal Leadership

Social Justice and Antiracism

Policy and Research

These elements live out in each course, module, and residency experience within the program.

After completing their coursework and their problem of practice dissertation, students will possess the policy, leadership, and research skills necessary to thrive as agents of change in senior positions within education, nonprofit, government, and advocacy spaces.

QUICK FACTS

40

Credit Hours

Under 3 Years

Completion Time*

3

DC Residencies

Fall

Annual Start Date

Merit and Partner Scholarships Available

*Completion time is based on candidates following the prescribed course sequence.

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I chose AU's program because I want to produce research that highlights policy changes that produce equitable outcomes for young children and the educators within this system. I want to continue to foster my skills in policy and research to be able to evaluate progress toward systems change.”

Shayna Cook
Class of '22



COURSE SCHEDULE

3 Hours	3 Hours	8-10 Hours	14-16 Hours
Synchronous	Asynchronous	Assignments	Total Weekly Hours
Live online classes	Self-paced discussions and other course-related work	Homework, projects, research, etc.	Hours are estimates and subject to change per course

WHAT MAKES THE EdD PROGRAM UNIQUE?

- **Asynchronous content:** Learn and complete online coursework at your own pace.
- **Live sessions:** Meet with your faculty and cohort each week via Zoom to explore the content in greater depth.
- **Required on-campus residency weekends:** Connect with peers from your cohort and those ahead of you and gain valuable perspective while growing your leadership skills and professional network during these intensive learning experiences in DC.
- **Convenient and flexible:** Complete the program in eight semesters through online courses designed Created for full-time professionals.
- **Support team:** Gain access to the support and guidance team throughout the application process and program.
- **DC-based:** Learn about research, practice, and policy from practitioners in the nation’s capital.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The EdD program prepares you for jobs in policy, consulting, superintendency, and non-profits. Some sample roles include:

Job Title	Median Annual Salary
Training and development manager	\$125,040
Top executives (e.g., school superintendent)	\$103,840
School principal	\$103,460
Postsecondary education administrator	\$102,610
Instructional coordinator	\$74,620

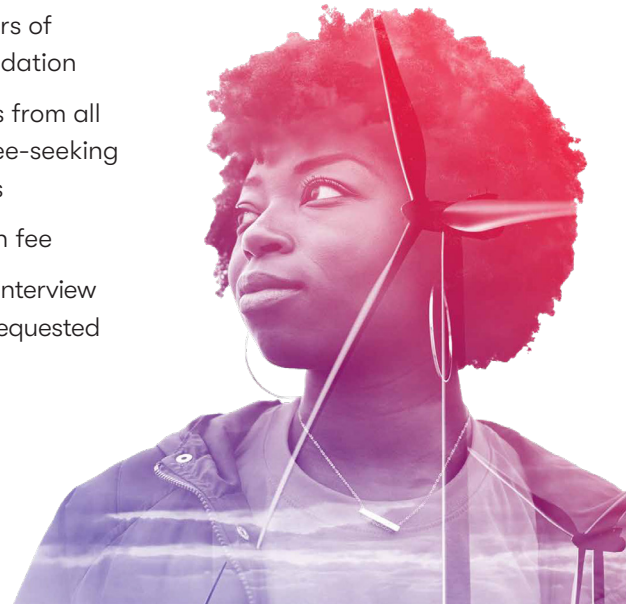
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025.

PARTNER SCHOLARSHIPS

AU partners with local, regional, and national organizations to increase access to higher education. Our [partnerships](#) offer a **29% tuition scholarship** for partner members who want to make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of children and engage in transformative education policy and practice. Connect with our team to learn more.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- [Online application](#)
- Statement of purpose
- Academic writing sample
- Résumé
- Three letters of recommendation
- Transcripts from all your degree-seeking institutions
- Application fee
- Admission interview (virtual, if requested by faculty)
- International students: Please contact our team regarding additional requirements.



READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

[Start Your Application](#)

or contact our enrollment with any questions.
[Email](#) | [Phone](#) | [Schedule an appointment](#)