

Doctor of Education

# Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning



## Become a powerful agent for change.

Thrive and drive innovation through transformational leadership. Further the conversation about leadership and learning in education and related fields while contributing new theories, models, and constructs for teaching and learning.

Our online program is designed for working professionals who hold a master's degree and have an interest in advancing their knowledge of learning based on research about human growth and development, the approaches and practices that enhance the creation of positive environments within organizations, and the ways to facilitate real change in a leadership role.

### Choose Rivier to Earn Your Degree

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership and Learning is designed to enable students to complete their coursework online in as few as three years, while simultaneously beginning their dissertation in the first year and conducting original research on a topic of local, regional, and national significance. The program is structured to allow students to engage in doctoral study while maintaining their current employment, to develop their career goals, to meet their personal aspirations, and to expand their professional networks.



#### Course Format

Online, two  
7-week courses each  
semester



#### 48 Credits

to complete  
program



#### 3 Years

#### Minimum

estimated  
program length



# Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) at Rivier University extends research on what is known about leadership and learning to professionals in the social sciences; applied fields of social service, healthcare, and counseling; and for training and development within organizations, institutions, and systems. In our program, you will:

- Extend the ongoing conversation about leadership and learning to many disciplines and fields of study, to identify what is common in our knowledge, experiences, and practices;
- Engage with professionals from the multiple professions in the discussion of leadership and learning;
- Enable professionals to contribute new theories, models, and constructs of teaching and learning to create enlightened programs and services;
- Conduct research on human growth and development, learning, and the nature of help and support in a variety of disciplines and professions in order to formulate an informed understanding of the nature of change.

## Course Sequence

By following the course sequence below, you will be able to complete your Ed.D. in as few as three years. The sequence consists of seven-week, three-credit courses totaling 48 credits. A first-year Orientation includes an introduction to the program and doctoral study.

	Fall		Spring		Summer	
Year 1	EDUC 852	Leadership for Transformation	EDUC 856	Culturally Competent Leadership	EDUC 857	Leadership in the Information Age
	EDUC 854	Positive Learning Environments	EDUC 874	Writing in the Social Sciences	EDUC 853	Advances in Mind Brain Learning
Year 2	EDUC 876	Qualitative Methods	EDUC 877	Quantitative Methods	EDUC 880	Leading Change
	EDUC 878	Qualitative Analysis	EDUC 879	Quantitative Analysis	EDUC 894	Dissertation Research Advisement
Year 3*	EDUC 894	Dissertation Research Advisement <i>and/or</i>	EDUC 894	Dissertation Research Advisement <i>and/or</i>	EDUC 894	Dissertation Research Advisement <i>and/or</i>
	EDUC 895	Dissertation Research	EDUC 895	Dissertation Research	EDUC 895	Dissertation Research

*\*Up to six credits per term*

## Get Started

Our doctoral cohorts begin each September. Applications are reviewed throughout the year; students are accepted on a rolling admissions basis.





## Our Alumni are Innovators in their Fields



### **Dr. Lisa Dias, Ed.D.**

**Class of 2016**

**Head of School, World Academy**

Dr. Lisa Dias pursued her Ed.D. at Rivier University while working full-time. She considers her doctoral studies one of her greatest achievements.

"I chose to further my education in order to be the most effective leader I could be; the professors at Rivier taught me how to think dynamically and critically."



### **Michael McCutcheon, Ed.D.**

**Class of 2018**

**Owner of Forensic Education, LLC**

**Assistant Professor, Fitchburg State University**

Dr. Michael McCutcheon already had a distinguished career as a patrol sergeant when he entered the Ed.D. program. He earned his doctorate to become a professional educator and to share his knowledge with future generations of police officers. Earning his doctorate has opened doors to a second career, incorporating the work that he loves as a professor in higher education.

"The doctoral program allowed me to grow as an instructor and a leader."



## Our Distinguished Faculty

You will be taught and mentored by faculty who are widely recognized both regionally and nationally as experts in the field of education. Faculty from a variety of disciplines bring rich experience in leadership, knowledge of learning, strategic decision-making in policy and intervention, research design, data collection and analysis, and presentation of findings. Our faculty have backgrounds in multiple areas of scholarship, teaching, and service.

# Admissions Requirements

Applicants must:

- have earned baccalaureate and master's degrees from an accredited college or university;
- have maintained a grade-point average of 3.25 or better in courses at or above the 500 level; and
- provide current resume or curriculum vitae documenting at least three years of relevant professional experience.

## Application Requirements

The application deadline for the upcoming academic year is August 1, 2026. A complete application submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Admissions includes the following:

1. A completed online application, available at [www.rivier.edu/apply](http://www.rivier.edu/apply);
2. Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions where you have received degrees and/or course credit;
3. A written statement of your purpose in seeking doctoral study that reflects in detail upon the following:
  - a. Your professional experience and how that experience relates to your intended doctoral study;
  - b. Your reasons for pursuing doctoral study;
  - c. The research goal(s), problem(s), and/or question(s) you are interested in addressing through doctoral study and research;
  - d. The ways in which doctoral study will enhance your personal and professional career goals and plans;
  - e. Specific examples of presentations, papers, publications, or other scholarship related to your goals for doctoral study; and
4. At least three letters of recommendation.
5. An interview may be requested by the Admissions Committee.

## Application Process

1. Review the application requirements at [www.rivier.edu/doctoraladmissions](http://www.rivier.edu/doctoraladmissions) and request official transcripts be sent to Rivier University.
2. Ask questions by contacting us at (603) 897-8507 or emailing [admissions@rivier.edu](mailto:admissions@rivier.edu).
3. Submit your application online at [www.rivier.edu/apply](http://www.rivier.edu/apply) (Your resume/CV and statement of purpose can be uploaded with your application or sent separately after submission of application.)
4. Send all supplemental documents to Rivier to complete your application portfolio.

Supplemental documents should be sent via email to [admissions@rivier.edu](mailto:admissions@rivier.edu) or mailed to:

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Admissions  
Rivier University, 420 South Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060

# Ed.D. Program Start Dates

Our Doctoral cohorts begin each September. Applications are reviewed throughout the year; students are accepted on a rolling admissions basis.

## Acceptance into the Program

Rivier will provide you with notifications on your application status throughout the process. Once your application portfolio is complete, you may be invited to interview with the Doctoral Program Admissions Committee. Normally, notification of acceptance is provided within 14 days of application portfolio completion.

## Academic Accreditation

Rivier University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).



## Quick Links



Ask a Question  
[admissions@rivier.edu](mailto:admissions@rivier.edu)



Talk to an Enrollment Counselor  
[rivier.edu/team](http://rivier.edu/team)



Schedule a Visit  
[events.rivier.edu](http://events.rivier.edu)



Tuition & Fees  
[rivier.edu/tuition](http://rivier.edu/tuition)

*The University reserves the right to make changes when appropriate and necessary as needed without notification. (0825)*