The Ed.D. programs at Gardner-Webb University are designed to provide practical leadership skills with a strong theoretical foundation. The programs are structured with the working adult in mind as well as providing experiences that allow the candidates to contribute to their organization throughout the course of study. The Ed.D. curriculum and agenda is tailored specifically for each cohort allowing opportunities that meet the needs of the cohort group. Repeatedly, the common feedback from the participants is the strong bond among the cohort members that facilitates a network of support and lifelong collaboration. In addition, positive response to the dissertation process is evident as the research product is developed throughout the program creating an opportunity for a timely completion of the degree.

“Gardner-Webb University values each individual candidate which sustains a learning process that is meaningful and relevant to today’s leadership needs.”

Dr. A. Doug Eury | Associate Dean School of Education
Coordinator of Doctoral Studies
Director, Center for Transformational Leadership

Quick Facts

- **Location:** 50 miles west of Charlotte in the Piedmont area of Western North Carolina. Main campus of 200 acres is located in Boiling Springs, NC.

- **General Contact Info:**
  
  Doctor of Education | PO Box 7256 | Boiling Springs, NC 28017 | (704) 406-4723

- **Accreditation:** Gardner-Webb University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The School of Education is accredited by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

- **Enrollment:** Average fall enrollment for all Graduate Programs 1,201. 32% male, 68% female; Geographic Distribution: 14 states, 15 foreign counties.

- **Faculty:** 14 full-time faculty, 5 part-time faculty, 100% with Ph.D.

- **President:** Dr. Frank Bonner (July 1, 2005 – present).

Christian Heritage
Acknowledging One God—Creator and Sustainer of life, and Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; committing to self-giving service displayed in Christ-like moral action that respects the dignity and value of every person.

Academic Excellence
Encouraging visible enthusiasm for knowledge, intellectual challenge, continuous learning, and scholarly endeavors; inviting pursuit of educational opportunities within and beyond the classroom for the joy of discovery; and inspiring accomplishment within one’s field of study.

Teamwork
Working collaboratively to support and promote shared goals, assuming responsibility willingly, meeting commitments dependably, handling disagreement constructively, and persevering despite distraction and adversity.

Student-Centered Focus
Providing students and environment that fosters intellectual and spiritual growth; strengthens and develops moral character; and respects the value and individuality of every student.

Community Engagement
Assisting campus, local, national, and global communities through education, outreach, and research; fostering dialogue and action in support of human welfare and environmental stewardship.

Diversity
Studying and celebrating our world’s rich mix of cultures, ideologies, and ethnicities; respecting and welcoming students without regard to ethnicity, gender, religious commitment, national origin, or disability.
School of Divinity
Doctor of Education

Acknowledging One God—Creator and Sustainer of life, and Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; committing to self-giving service displayed in Christ-like moral action that respects the dignity and value of every person.

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Program Features

- Each concentration is organized in a cohort structure that creates a rich learning environment as students progress towards program completion with the same group of peers.
- Students network with education professionals to bring a diverse perspective to today’s challenges.
- Students are guided by expert faculty who are accessible, supportive, and devoted to helping students reach the program’s high academic standards.
- Classes are offered on alternate weekends to allow working education professionals to balance school, work, and family.
GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Overview
Educational leaders face unprecedented challenges today. Reduced funding, new regulatory demands, a widening achievement gap, and an increasing diversity in learners are but a few of the problems that must be addressed. At the same time, the potential for education to change the lives of students, their families, and their communities has never been greater. Gardner-Webb University offers two Doctor of Education specializations, Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership, which will prepare graduates to emerge as professional educators and leaders who will advance educational theory, practice, and policy through scholarship and disciplined inquiry. Emphasizing models of instruction, research, and practice, both programs provide opportunity for graduates to work in learning communities as educators and assume leadership roles in university, educational agency, and K-12 settings.

As the education system experiences these rapid changes, there has been a drastic increase in the need for leaders who are capable of designing innovative curricular models in their institutions and of consistently improving their students’ outcomes. Administrative leaders within school systems must be equipped with the up-to-date skills, knowledge, and vision to guide institutions through this ongoing evolution. Both specializations within the Doctor of Education Program, offered by Gardner-Webb University, enable leaders to effect these high levels of performance through applied scholarship, rigorous analysis, and comprehensive evaluation.

Mission
The purpose of the Doctor of Education degree at Gardner-Webb University is to develop educational leaders through courses, research, seminars, and internships conducted in an environment based on Christian principles and values.

Admission Deadlines
The doctoral programs involve a cohort of students in a common set of courses and experiences. This structure requires all interested doctoral program candidates, to submit all required application materials by June 1st.

www.gardner-webb.edu
Faith ♦ Service ♦ Leadership
### Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

The Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership focuses on preparing graduates for administrative positions at the school site, district office, or county, state, and federal levels in public and private education. Graduates will demonstrate both practical and scholarly knowledge in the use of analytical, critical, and innovative thinking to improve the performance of educational institutions.

**Goals**
- To engage candidates in critical analysis of educational theory and practice.
- To engage candidates in disciplined inquiry in the field of education.
- To prepare candidates for making contributions to educational theory and practice.
- To prepare candidates to become curriculum leaders in educational institutions.
- To meet proficiency levels in licensure requirements.

**Course Requirements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDLS 700</td>
<td>Theory Development Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 701</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<td>EDLS 702</td>
<td>Operational and Managerial Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 703</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<td>EDLS 704</td>
<td>Research Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 705</td>
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<td>EDLS 706</td>
<td>Reform and Change Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 707</td>
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<td>EDLS 708</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 710</td>
<td>Instructional Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 711</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLS 712</td>
<td>Dissertation Module 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLS 712</td>
<td>Dissertation Module 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLS 714</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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### Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

The Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction will prepare learners to become instructional leaders, who will create and strategically manage processes related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of educational practices and acquire tools needed to provide professional leadership in curriculum, teacher education, and professional development in the schools.

**Goals**
- To engage candidates in critical analysis of curriculum theory and practice.
- To engage candidates in disciplined inquiry in the field of curriculum and instruction.
- To prepare candidates for making contributions to curriculum theory and practice.
- To prepare candidates to become curriculum leaders in organizations.

**Course Requirements**

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<td>EDLS 701</td>
<td>EDCI Seminar</td>
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<td>EDLS 702</td>
<td>Issues and Models in Curriculum Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 703</td>
<td>EDCI Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLS 704</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods Module</td>
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<td>EDLS 705</td>
<td>EDCI Seminar</td>
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<td>EDLS 706</td>
<td>Reform and Change Theory Module</td>
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<td>EDCI Dissertation</td>
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(Continuing, if needed)
Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess a master’s degree, have a minimum of three years successful administrative or teaching experience, and hold an entry-level license in school administration (for Educational Leadership) or a teaching area (for Curriculum and Instruction). For Curriculum and Instruction, a letter indicating appropriate experience may be submitted in lieu of a license.

All admission materials must be submitted at the same time. Application packet must be submitted at one time and should include the following items (in sealed envelopes):

- Complete the doctoral application. Paper application is available or you may apply online. If submitting a paper application, attach a $40.00 non-refundable application fee.
- Submit a copy of your current educator’s license (or letter mentioned above for Curriculum and Instruction applicants).
- Submit five forms of professional references.
- Submit official transcript of all master’s level work.
- Write a personal essay explaining your purpose in wanting to earn a doctoral degree in the concentration to which you are applying.
- Arrange to take the Graduate Record Exam and have those scores sent to the Graduate Admissions Office, from the testing agency.
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION | OUTCOMES

Currently I am the Director of School Leadership for New Leaders for New Schools-Charlotte. New Leaders for New Schools is a national non-profit that provides a rigorous and intensive pathway for educators to become outstanding principals in urban public schools.

“The professors at GWU care about you as a student and as an educational professional. The support I received during the Masters and Doctoral programs by the School of Education professors was second to none! My career accomplishments today are largely due to the guidance and mentoring I received as a GWU student.”

Dr. Lory Morrow | Director of School Leadership
2006 Doctor of Education Graduate

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY | AFFORDING EDUCATION

Employer Assistance Programs
Some school systems, medical facilities, and businesses provide financial assistance to Gardner-Webb graduate students. Prospective students should consult with their central offices as to the availability of such funds.

Federal Aid
The Stafford Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized is available to graduate students. Lender list is provided below.

Private Sources
Many companies and foundations offer assistance to students based on various qualifications. Students should investigate policies of their employers as well as with local civic organizations to determine the availability of such funds.

Military/Veteran’s Benefit
The veteran’s benefit is awarded to eligible personnel. A DD-214 and a VA Application for Education Benefits must be submitted to the University’s VA Coordinator.

FINANCIAL AID | HELPFUL WEBSITES

www.ets.org
Find a GRE testing center near you. Register for GRE. Download study software.

www.wes.org
Order course-by-course evaluations for international transcripts.

www.petersons.com
Prepare for Graduate Admissions Test. Manage educational expenses. Loan options and information.

www.princetonreview.com
Learn about Graduate Admissions Test. Download study software.
Gardner-Webb University is situated on over 200 acres in the Piedmont section of western North Carolina, one of the most desirable and rapidly developing areas of our nation. Boiling Springs is a small rural town. Nearby Shelby, a city of 22,000, is noted for its support of the arts and as the home of state and national leaders. Fifty miles east of Gardner-Webb is the thriving city of Charlotte, the largest city in the Carolinas. Less than one half hour away to the south is the city of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

www.gardner-webb.edu

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY | LOCATION
Faith ♦ Service ♦ Leadership
P.O. Box 7256 | 110 S. Main St. | Boiling Springs, NC 28017
(877) 498-4723 | (704) 406-4273 | www.gardner-webb.edu

Name ____________________________________________ DOB____________
Address __________________________________________________________
City _________________________________ State_________ Zip____________
Home Phone (_____) _______________________________________________
Work Phone (_____) ________________________________________________
Email  ___________________________________________________________
College/University _________________________________________________
Degrees Held ______________________________________________________

Programs
☐ Curriculum & Instruction
☐ Educational Leadership

Center
☐ Boiling Springs
☐ Charlotte
☐ Winston-Salem

Term
☐ Fall
☐ Spring
☐ Summer

___________ Year

Yes, I want to learn more about the Doctor of Education degree programs. Please send me information!

(877) GWU-GRAD | www.gardner-webb.edu