

## PROGRAM FEATURES

- No GRE/entrance exam
- Convenient, accessible online courses taught by award-winning faculty from both universities
- 2 face-to-face summer superintendent seminars in Lincoln, focused on real-world challenges, opportunities, and building your professional leadership network
- An authentic dissertation research project that addresses an authentic challenge or opportunity in P-12 school leadership, with expert faculty guidance from both universities

## THE NEBRASKA DIFFERENCE



**VISIONARY THINKERS** understand there is more to school leadership than crossing off tasks on a checklist. Visionary Thinkers understand theory and research in education and articulate the reasons behind the actions they take and decisions they make.

**REFLECTIVE LEARNERS** know that if schools are to be focused on learning, it starts with leadership. Reflective learners apply research and theory and model continuous growth, learning, and improvement in themselves and others.

**SERVANT LEADERS** know that, above all else, leadership is empowering and supporting others for success. Servant Leaders help sustain success with an eye toward the future.



## GET IN TOUCH

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## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit us on UNL's website at <https://cehs.unl.edu/edad/>



# EARN YOUR DOCTOR OF EDUCATION THROUGH UNL & UNK

*A unique arrangement between UNK and UNL offers a pathway to the Ed.D. and superintendent certification*

The program allows aspiring superintendents to draw upon faculty expertise from both universities with a curricula aligned with the Professional Standards for Educational Leadership (PSEL) and Nebraska Effective Practices Framework. Students may apply up to 21 credit hours from the UNK Education Specialist (EdS) program toward the Doctor of Education (EdD) program at UNL. Hours must be transferred to the UNL EdD program before earning the UNK EdS.

# UNL-UNK JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM FAQs

## What type of degree would I receive?

Program graduates will receive Doctorate of Education (EdD) awarded by UNL. The focus of the EdD degree is on practitioners (such as school leaders, working as administrators, directors, etc.), as opposed to a traditional PhD, which is more focused on conducting and publishing research and college/university teaching.

## How many hours does the program require?

The doctorate is a minimum of 96 graduate credit hours, which would be 60 credit hours beyond a Masters Degree.

## What is the format of the UNL courses? Are students required to come to campus?

UNL courses are offered in either an online or hybrid format. Students are strongly encouraged and may be required to come to campus for supervisory committee meetings, dissertation proposals and defenses, etc.

## What is the dissertation and what does it include?

The dissertation is an extensive study focused on addressing an authentic challenge or opportunity in P-12 school leadership. With the support and direction of your supervisory committee, you will identify what is often called a “challenge or opportunity of practice” to address and then conduct research to address it. Dissertations take many forms and your supervisory committee will assist you in focusing on a topic and organizing your work.

## What about the comprehensive exam?

You will complete comps in two phases.

**Phase one:** UNK. This addresses UNK institutional verification for superintendent endorsement.

**Phase two:** UNL. This addresses the research courses and preparation for the dissertation.

## Will I receive additional endorsements for my administrative certificate?

Yes, once you complete the 21 hours of coursework through UNK, the 9 hours of summer workshops at UNL, and phase one of comprehensive exam through UNK, you will receive an institutional recommendation for the Superintendent endorsement from UNK.

## How much will this degree cost?

It will depend on how many courses you need to complete the program. The current tuition and fees per hour at UNL are \$325.50 for tuition and \$42.25 for fees. UNL also charges a \$20 registration fee per term. The UNK tuition and fees for this program will be the same as UNL's. UNK does have a student records fee of \$4 per term. So, currently, each 3 hour class would cost just over \$1,100.

## What is required to apply for the program?

No GRE is required for admission. You will need a personal statement, writing sample, resume, and three letters of recommendation.

## When are applications due?

Applications are due February 1 for admission the following summer.

## Where do I apply?

All applications will be through the UNL website.

## How many applicants will be accepted each year?

This is a competitive admissions process and not all applicants will be admitted. Admissions depend on a number of factors, but we anticipate that a total of 10-12 applicants for the UNL EdD programs to be accepted each year. The UNK/UNL Joint Doctoral Program applicants will be a part of those considered for acceptance each year.

## Can I switch from the EdD program to an Education Specialist (EdS) program if I decide the EdD is not for me?

Yes, if you are accepted into the Joint UNK/UNL EdD program, you may apply to the EdS program at UNK. All of the required 30 credit hours outlined earlier in this document will apply to the EdS. To complete the EdS, you will also be required to complete EDAD 958 Educational Facility Planning (3 hours). The EdS would be granted through UNK.

## How will the UNK professors be involved with the program?

The UNK professors will be involved in teaching the 21 required hours at UNK. In addition, UNK faculty members will serve with UNL faculty members as co-chairs and members for the doctoral students' committees.

# LAUNCHING YOUR JOURNEY

**The following courses (21 hours) would be completed through UNK:**

- EDAD 940 - Administrative Theory - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 944 - Seminar in EDAD - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 955 - The School Administrator and the Law - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 956 - School/Community Relations - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 957 - Public School Finance - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 992 - The Executive Administrator - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 998 - Internship - 3 hours (online)

**The following courses (9 hours) would be completed through UNL:**

- EDAD 987A - Superintendent Academy I - 3 hours (hybrid)
- EDAD 9878 - Superintendent Academy II - 3 hours (hybrid)
- EDAD 988 - Dissertation Proposal Development - 3 hours (hybrid)

**With the completion of these 30 hours, you would receive a UNK institutional recommendation to add the superintendent endorsement to your certificate. To complete the doctorate, you would need to complete additional UNL coursework (approximately 30 credit hours).**

**Select 4 Research Courses (12 hours):**

- EDAD 981 - Intermediate Quantitative Methods - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 982 - Advanced Quantitative Methods - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 983 - Qualitative Methods - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 984A - Historical Methods - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 902 - Data for Decision Making - 3 hours (online)
- EDAD 995 - The Department regularly offers additional research courses with this number. (online & hybrid)

**Select at least 2 Electives (6 hours) (online & hybrid)**

Your advisor will assist you in selecting appropriate electives.

**Complete 12 hours of Dissertation credit (online)**

- EDAD 999 - Dissertation



*“As a long-time resident and educator in central Nebraska, the joint UNK-UNL program made it very comfortable for me to pursue my doctorate. I was able to begin my journey in the familiar environment of UNK and transition into the UNL program to complete my studies. This program has served me very well and I am proud to have been one of the initial students taking advantage of it. I have nothing but the highest regard for the professors and administrators at both UNK and UNL. They all worked so hard to make the process as seamless as possible and they always put my experience as a student first. Thank you so much to both institutions for making this program possible!”*

**Dave Evertson, EdD, School Improvement Coordinator, Cozad Public Schools**