



Doctoral Decision

Students who have decided to seek a doctoral degree in education must choose which terminal degree to pursue — the PhD or the EdD degree.

Each degree represents a considerable body of knowledge and research processes and either will provide an academic credential with outstanding career and professional possibilities. The chief differences between the two options are the doctoral dissertation and its research courses.

There truly is no right or wrong choice; the decision rests with you.

You do not have to formally decide which degree program at time of application. You have until the completion of your first 2 courses to decide which will be your preferred program of study.

Factors you may wish to consider include: What is your ultimate academic goal? What does the degree designation mean to you personally? What are your professional aspirations?

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) dissertation is the capstone of focused research aimed at contributing **new information to the body of knowledge**—either by new research or by adding to research already done in a particular field.

CUC requires PhD candidates to take **5 research courses** before comprehensive examinations: EDL 6110, EDL 6115, EDL 6116, EDL 7500 and EDL 6105. An oral defense of the dissertation is required. The PhD is considered a more scholarly and research oriented degree of study.

The Doctor of Education (EdD) research and dissertation are **centered on solving a problem, challenge, reform, change agenda, etc. in the workplace**. The dissertation tends to be more job-embedded resulting in a product or program that has immediate application and implementation ramifications. There are 3 required research courses prior to the comprehensive examination: EDL 6115, EDL 6116, EDL 6105. An oral defense of the dissertation is also required at CUC. The EdD is considered the clinical or practitioner degree of study.