The vision of the Ph.D. in education — school improvement program is to prepare educational leaders, administrators, policymakers, researchers and university professors who will become change agents prepared to facilitate educational improvement in local, state, national and international contexts.

Texas State University has a long tradition of preparing high-quality educators capable of leading continuous school improvement in PK-12 schools.

The Ph.D. in education with a major in school improvement is designed for professionals in a variety of educational roles who wish to develop and enhance their capacity for facilitating ongoing educational improvement, conducting research to inform practice and preparing educational practitioners.

The program develops skills in transformational school leadership, culturally responsive leadership, professional development, curriculum development and instructional improvement, improvement of student assessment, educational philosophies and educational research within both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

Students have the option to earn superintendent or principal certification concurrently with the doctoral degree.
Course Work
Students are admitted as a cohort in the fall semester of each year. Applications are due by February 1. The program consists of 51 hours of course work and 12 hours of dissertation. All classes are offered in the evenings or on weekends for the convenience of working professionals.

Doctoral Program Course Sequence
• core courses — 18 hours
  Philosophy, Team Development, Leadership and Organizational Change, Epistemologies, Adult Learning and Development, and Community Development
• major courses — 12 hours
  Foundations of School Improvement, Facilitating School Improvement, Curriculum and Instructional Leadership, and Models of Educational Assessment
• doctoral elective — 9 hours
• dissertation proposal development — 3 hours
• research courses — 9 hours
  Beginning Qualitative Research Design, Beginning Quantitative Research Design, and Intermediate Research in either Qualitative or Quantitative Research
• dissertation — minimum 12 hours

Career Paths
This program places at its center the improvement of PK–12 teaching and learning through the development of systems-level processes and structures. It prioritizes educational leadership as a practice integrating school and community contexts. Doctoral students in this program may be preparing for roles including:

- superintendent, principal, assistant principal, university professor, educational researcher, school district administrator, staff developer, department chair or team leader, instructional supervisor, curriculum coordinator, government agency administrator, educational nonprofit administrator and educational consultant

For additional information about the Ph.D. in education — school improvement program, visit www.txstate.edu/edphd.

Admission Policy
Individuals applying to the program should have current or past experience in educational roles, although this experience may encompass a broad range of settings, including schools, colleges and universities, business and industry, government, health and human service agencies and community-based organizations.

Strengths in one area may offset shortcomings in another. A doctoral faculty committee will determine an applicant’s suitability to the program based on the following factors:

- evidence of complete master’s degree from a regionally accredited university in an area related to proposed studies, with a GPA of 3.5 or higher for courses applied to the master’s degree
- Demonstration of interest in a career as an educator and potential to contribute to the advancement of education through professional leadership, as indicated by:
  1. a statement of purpose (about 500 words describing background and professional goals. This should include the rationale for pursuing a doctoral degree.)
  2. a professional résumé
  3. a possible interview with program faculty

- Three (3) completed recommendation forms addressing professional and academic background. References are required to use the program’s Professional Reference Evaluation form and are also strongly encouraged to attach a recommendation letter to the reference form.

For information about admission procedures and applications, visit www.txstate.edu/edphd.

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu for access to an online application and additional details. All application materials must be submitted by February 1.

Financial Assistance
Half-time doctoral assistantships are available to a limited number of qualified candidates. These require attendance as a full-time student. Contact the doctoral program director for more information.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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