

A COMPARISON OF WALDEN'S EARLY CHILDHOOD DOCTORAL PROGRAMS



PROGRAM	EdD WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (NON-LICENSURE)	PhD IN EDUCATION WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY
FOCUS	In this specialization, educators evaluate the familial, social, and cultural influences on a child's development from the prenatal stage through age 8. Coursework will focus on topics such as child development, family partnerships, content knowledge, assessment, effective practices, leadership, and advocacy.	Through topics such as child development, family partnerships, content knowledge, leadership, advocacy, social change, and professionalism, students in this specialization examine the quality of early childhood programs and policies. Coursework is designed to help prepare graduates to evaluate the leadership characteristics necessary to be an advocate for young children and their families.
OCCUPATION	This program is for educators working in early childhood settings as teachers, child center administrators, or trainers. Many participants work for agencies such as Head Start or as early childhood teachers, teacher educators, researchers, policy makers, and other positions that involve education and advocacy for young children, families, and communities.	This program is for education professionals and trainers working in early childhood settings, higher education, state education, public policy, or global/international positions. Although both PhD and EdD students can practice as consultants, early childhood specialists, and education professionals, the PhD program provides an additional focus on advocacy.
PROGRAM OF STUDY	The program of study focuses on early childhood education with an emphasis on practitioner-based research incorporating school and classroom effectiveness. The courses focus on issues in a practitioner model, including effective strategies, early childhood assessment, and program evaluation. Coursework will also define effective early childhood education from multiple professional roles. NAEYC advanced standards informed the creation of this program, which includes special focus on families, assessment, and the importance of local leadership.	The program of study focuses on research in early childhood education with special attention to leadership and advocacy. Students complete additional research courses to help them prepare to serve as early childhood researchers. NAEYC advanced standards informed the creation of this program, which includes special focus on families, assessment, and the importance of local leadership.
CAPSTONE FOCUS	Capstone research should address a gap in practice and contribute to the field of education. Participants can choose to complete either a dissertation or doctoral study. Doctoral study findings should address a unique problem of practice in the local area. Dissertation findings should be focused on generalizable problems of practice.	Capstone research should address a gap in knowledge as reflected in the literature. Dissertation findings should provide empirical data to be used by practitioners to solve problems, and they must apply to the broader academic field.
REQUIRED CREDITS	76 quarter credits	86 quarter credits
RESIDENCY	One 3-day residency with the option of an additional advanced residency.	Four 4-day residencies; two of these residencies must be face-to-face, but the other two may be either face-to-face or virtual.

Find information on costs, occupation types, completion rates, and median loan debt for these programs at www.WaldenU.edu/programdata.

Walden offers both state-approved educator licensure programs as well as programs and courses that do not lead to licensure or endorsements. Prospective students must review their state licensure requirements prior to enrolling. For more information, please refer to www.WaldenU.edu/educlicensure.

Note to all Washington residents: These programs are not intended to lead to teacher certification. Teachers are advised to contact their individual school districts as to whether this program may qualify for salary advancement.