

A COMPARISON OF WALDEN'S CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	EdD WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT	PhD IN EDUCATION WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION
FOCUS	Program participants develop critical thinking skills by crafting strategies to drive innovation and change at the systemic level—which includes the local school district and regional, state, and federal education agencies—and ensuring that these strategies can effect measurable improvement in K–12 schools.	The program curriculum covers research-based and data-driven approaches to program evaluation. Program participants can gain insight into the strategic planning of educational programs, processes, and systems. The PhD program also addresses leadership and advocacy roles with greater depth and breadth.
OCCUPATION	This program is for educators working in P–12 school districts (public, private nonprofit, private for profit). Choose this EdD specialization if you are a classroom teacher, curriculum specialist, department chair, director of instruction, administrator, or any educator who wants to influence positive educational change and improved student achievement through effective curriculum development, instruction, and assessment techniques.	The PhD program is appropriate for education professionals and trainers working in higher education or for state education agencies, regional service agencies, or research organizations such as the regional education labs.
PROGRAM OF STUDY	The program of study focuses on curriculum, instruction, and assessment with an emphasis on learner-centric concepts, principles, and practices. Within the coursework, educators address practitioner issues in a new systems-driven way. Courses build upon each other by utilizing tools and skills to help educators learn to mitigate student struggles and to provide meaningful and data-driven informed differentiation.	This program of study focuses on research in curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including the planning and evaluation of programs, education systems, processes, and practices. Participants can learn to effectively design, modify, and evaluate curriculum and assessment practices using a systems-based approach. Coursework is designed to enhance educators' skills in program evaluation, strategic planning, and curriculum mapping, and they will have the opportunity to develop a systems, technology, and curriculum audit.
CAPSTONE FOCUS	Capstone research should address a gap in practice and contribute to the educational field of study. Educators 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.