

**Title 5 California Code of Regulations  
The Doctor of Education Degree**

**§ 40050.1 Function: Instruction Leading to the Doctor of Education Degree.**

Notwithstanding Section 40050, the Doctor of Education degree may be awarded independently of any other institution of higher education, provided that the program leading to the degree satisfies the criteria in subdivision (a) of Section 40511.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 66040.3 89030 and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040.3, 66600, and 89030, Education Code.

**§ 40100. Authorization to Establish Curricula.**

A campus may be authorized by the Board of Trustees to establish and maintain curricula leading to the bachelor's degree, ~~and~~ the master's degree, and the doctoral degree; provided, that in the case of the doctoral degree, the requirements of Section 40050 or Section 40050.1 are satisfied.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 66040.3 89030 and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040.3, 66600 and 89030, Education Code.

**§ 40511. The Doctor of Education Degree.**

- (a) A California State University program leading to a Doctor of Education degree shall be distinguished from a University of California doctoral degree program by its conformity with the following criteria:
- (1) the program shall prepare administrative leaders for possible service in one of the following settings:
    - (A) public elementary and secondary schools, or
    - (B) community colleges;
  - (2) the program shall focus on the knowledge and skills needed by administrators to be effective leaders in California public schools and community colleges;
  - (3) the program shall be offered through partnerships in which California public elementary and secondary schools and community colleges, as appropriate, shall participate substantively in program design, candidate recruitment and admissions, teaching, dissertation development, and program assessment and evaluation; and
  - (4) the program shall enable professionals to earn the degree while working full time.

- (b) Each campus offering a program leading to a Doctor of Education degree shall establish requirements for admission to the program. The requirements for admission shall include, at a minimum, the requirements stated in Section 41020.
- (c) The program leading to the Doctor of Education degree shall conform to the following specifications:
  - (1) The curriculum shall be organized as a cohort-based program and shall include learning experiences that balance research, theory, and practice, including field experiences. The core curriculum shall provide professional preparation for leadership, including but not limited to theory and research methods, the structure and culture of education, and leadership in curriculum and instruction, equity, and assessment.
  - (2) The pattern of study shall be composed of at least 60 semester units earned in graduate standing. At least 48 semester units required for the degree shall be in courses organized primarily for doctoral students, and the remaining units required for the degree shall be in courses organized primarily for doctoral students or courses organized primarily for master's and doctoral students.
  - (3) At least 42 semester units shall be completed in residence at the campus or campuses awarding the degree. The appropriate campus authority may authorize the substitution of credit earned by alternate means for part of this residence requirement. The campus may establish a transfer policy allowing application to degree requirements of relevant coursework and credits completed as a matriculated student in another graduate program, on the condition that the other program is appropriately accredited.
  - (4) A qualifying examination shall be required.
  - (5) The pattern of study shall include completion of a dissertation.
    - (A) The dissertation shall be the written product of systematic, rigorous research on a significant professional issue. The dissertation is expected to contribute to an improvement in professional practices or policy. It shall evidence originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate form and organization, and a rationale.
    - (B) The dissertation shall identify the research problem and question(s), state the major theoretical perspectives, explain the significance of the undertaking, relate it to the relevant scholarly and professional literature, set forth the appropriate sources for and methods of gathering and analyzing the data, and offer a conclusion or recommendation. It shall include a

written abstract that summarizes the significance of the work, objectives, methodology, and a conclusion or recommendation.

(C) No more than 12 semester units shall be allowed for a dissertation.

(D) An oral defense of the dissertation shall be required.

(d) Each campus shall create and distribute to all students enrolled in a Doctor of Education degree program a student manual or handbook detailing, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) requirements for admission with classified standing;
- (2) policies on the transfer of credit earned at other institutions;
- (3) policies on professional ethics and academic integrity;
- (4) policies on student fees;
- (5) provisions for advising and mentoring;
- (6) policies and procedures for petitioning for a variance in academic requirements;
- (7) policies and procedures for obtaining a leave of absence or for withdrawing from the university;
- (8) policies and procedures regarding student grievances;
- (9) policies on harassment and discrimination;
- (10) policies and procedures for establishing and amending a plan of study;
- (11) requirements for satisfactory progress in the program;
- (12) policies on academic probation;
- (13) requirements for field experience embedded in the program;
- (14) requirements for advancement to candidacy;
- (15) policies and procedures for the formation of a committee for administering a qualifying examination (if the qualifying examination is unique to the individual student);
- (16) dissertation requirements;
- (17) policies and procedures for the formation of a committee for supervising a dissertation;
- (18) forms to be completed by students in the course of the degree program;
- (19) the names and areas of expertise of faculty members affiliated with the degree program.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 66040.3 89030 and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040.3, 66600, and 89030, Education Code.

**§ 40512. The Doctor of Education Degree: Requirements.**

- (a) Advancement to Candidacy. For advancement to candidacy for the Doctor of Education degree, the student shall have achieved classified graduate standing and met such particular requirements as the Chancellor and the appropriate campus authority may prescribe. The requirements shall include a qualifying examination.
- (b) To be eligible for the Doctor of Education degree, the candidate shall have completed a pattern of study, including a dissertation, that is consistent with the specifications in subdivision (c) of Section 40511 and that is approved by the appropriate campus authority. A grade point average of 3.0 (grade of B) or better shall have been earned in coursework taken to satisfy the requirements for the degree, except that a course in which no letter grade is assigned shall not be used in computing the grade point average.
- (c) The student shall have completed all requirements for the degree within five years of achieving classified standing in the doctoral program. The appropriate campus authority may extend the time for completion of the requirements if:
  - (1) the extension is warranted by individual circumstances, and
  - (2) the student demonstrates current knowledge of research and practice in educational leadership, as required by the campus.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 66040.3 89030 and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040.3, 66600, and 89030, Education Code.

**§ 41020. Admission to Doctor of Education Programs.**

- (a) An applicant may be admitted with classified graduate standing to a program leading to a Doctor of Education degree established pursuant to Section 40511 if the applicant satisfies the requirements of each of the following numbered subdivisions:
  - (1) The applicant holds an acceptable baccalaureate degree earned at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or the applicant has completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the appropriate campus authority.
  - (2) The applicant holds an acceptable master's degree earned at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or the applicant has completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the appropriate campus authority.

- (3) The applicant has attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 in upper-division and graduate study combined.
  - (4) The applicant is in good standing at the last institution of higher education attended.
  - (5) The applicant has demonstrated sufficient preparation and experience pertinent to educational leadership to benefit from the program.
  - (6) The applicant has met any additional requirements established by the Chancellor in consultation with the faculty and any additional requirements prescribed by the appropriate campus authority.
- (b) An applicant who does not qualify for admission under the provisions of subdivision (a) may be admitted with classified graduate standing by special action if on the basis of acceptable evidence the applicant is judged by the appropriate campus authority to possess sufficient academic and professional potential pertinent to educational leadership to merit such action.
  - (c) An applicant who is ineligible for admission under the provisions of either subdivision (a) or subdivision (b) because of deficiencies in prerequisite preparation that in the opinion of the appropriate campus authority can be rectified by specified additional preparation, including examinations, may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate standing. The student shall be granted classified graduate standing upon rectification of the deficiencies.
  - (d) Only those students who continue to demonstrate a satisfactory level of scholastic competence and fitness shall be eligible to continue in Doctor of Education programs.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 66040.3 89030 and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040.3, 66600, and 89030, Education Code.