



Develop critical
community
leadership skills
for education,
health care,
business, public
administration,
and other human
service sectors.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION:
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
AT ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY



ST. JOHN
FISHER
UNIVERSITY

Rochester, NY



ABOUT THE **DOCTOR OF EDUCATION: EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Obtain your doctoral degree for advanced leadership positions through our accelerated, rigorous, multidisciplinary, and highly supportive program of study that incorporates cutting-edge learning technologies, innovative teaching, applied research, and customized student services.

The Education Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Executive Leadership prepares you for executive leadership roles within the context of a diverse, information-driven, and increasingly global society. Through critical and applied research, you will develop strategies to solve complex challenges and improve organizational environments. The program challenges traditional assumptions about doctoral education by providing a rigorous multidisciplinary program that incorporates innovative teaching, theory with practice, applied research, and personalized student services.

Courses focus on leadership competencies, organizational development, strategic planning, public policy, and data-driven decision-making. Customized learning includes field experiences, guided dissertation seminars, and your dissertation committee aligned with your leadership research interests.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND DELIVERY

The program embraces a philosophy of leadership for public good and social justice based on five interlocking tenets: diversity, achievement, compassion, knowledge, and service. Ed.D. candidates become critical researchers with refined leadership skills to address real-world leadership challenges and opportunities.

In a hybrid format, candidates meet once a month. Courses are offered sequentially, organized by topical themes, and aligned with New York State, national, and institutional leadership standards. Field experiences are aligned with coursework to support the integration of theory and practice. The program includes professional development opportunities and seminars conducted by local, state, and national experts in the field of leadership. The cohort model reflects a supportive and social learning environment.

Candidates admitted to the program are required to register for six credits for the first semester and are required to register for nine credits for each of the next six consecutive semesters, including the summer sessions.

Candidates are also required to participate actively in class discussions, and are expected to contribute to, and in certain cases, lead the discussions based on their experiences and research. Each candidate works with a dissertation advisor and committee throughout the dissertation process. Certain aspects of the dissertation development process are integrated into the coursework and field experiences. However, candidates are expected to commit significant time outside of the classroom on dissertation development and refinement to support successful and timely completion of all dissertation requirements.



The doctoral program at St. John Fisher University is embedded with research skills development throughout the curriculum and a call to transformative leadership. You have the support to work on content expertise aligned to dissertation milestones offering you a rich doctoral journey. The program's in-depth experiences continue to assist me today."

Dr. Vicky (Vicma) Ramos
District Superintendent, Wayne-
Finger Lakes BOCES
Ed.D. Graduate

Career paths taken by program alumni:

- **P-12 Education:** superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal
- **Higher Education:** president, provost, associate provost, senior vice president, associate professor, dean
- **Not for Profit:** president, director, CFO, deputy executive director, commissioner
- **Business:** director, senior manager, consultant
- **Health:** CEO, vice president, director, administrator

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The education doctorate at St. John Fisher University allows working professionals to advance their executive leadership skills through a rigorous program featuring:

- Hybrid instruction that combines the flexibility of digital learning with the depth of in-person learning.
- Convenient in-person classes that meet Friday evenings and Saturday (once a month) to fit the demands of working professionals.
- Accelerated format with only 28 months to completion, which includes writing and defending your dissertation.
- Access to an alumni network of more than 500 executive-level leaders serving across the state and beyond.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Main Campus:

St. John Fisher University, Rochester, NY

Extension Site:*

Iona University, New Rochelle, NY

*Ed.D. candidates at Iona University are required to take one course on Fisher's campus. This course is typically completed in one three-day session in the final semester of the program.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Ed.D. in Executive Leadership, candidates are required to:

- Complete a minimum of 90 credit hours. Up to 30 hours from an approved graduate program may be considered for transfer.
- Complete the program's core requirements, comprised of a minimum of 60 credit hours, including research methodologies and dissertation.
- Pass a comprehensive exam, and write and defend a doctoral dissertation proposal and dissertation.
- Satisfy the residency requirement by completing at least nine credits of core courses each semester for two consecutive semesters.

STEPS FOR ADMISSION

Admission to the program is limited to qualified candidates who have:

- A minimum of three years of successful management/administrative level experiences.
- Completed a master's degree from a regionally accredited higher education institution.
- A proven record of excellence in mid-level leadership and management.

Candidates are required to provide evidence of their potential to meet the demands of a rigorous doctoral-level program. The admissions process involves three phases:

1. Applicant completes an online application.
2. Applicant participates in an interview and provides an on-demand writing sample.
3. Doctoral Program Admissions Committee reviews application and results of interview and recommends applicant for admission.



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The Ed.D. program provides immediate dividends applicable to your scholarship, research, organizational improvement planning, and executive leadership goals. I was able to develop systems, curricula, and organization objectives utilizing what I learned through the Ed.D. program and to interact with a cohort network of highly skilled professionals from various education, business, and nonprofit backgrounds.”

Dr. Malcolm A. Punter
President & CEO
Harlem Congregations for Community
Improvement, Inc.
Ed.D. Graduate



COURSE LIST, MODULES, AND DISSERTATION MILESTONES

The sequence of courses and field experiences are organized under six interrelated thematic modules. Each module includes topics, activities, and assignments that reflect key concepts that impact leadership at the executive level, such as law, politics, planning, research, finance, governance, diversity, human relations and development, resource development and management, data driven and informed decision-making, policy, and ethics.

FIRST SEMESTER

Module I: Introduction to Executive Leadership Practice and Dissertation Research

DEXL 701 – Introduction to Doctoral Studies in Executive Leadership
DEXL 702 – Theory and Practice of Executive Leadership

Dissertation Milestone: Identify Possible Dissertation Topic, Potential Problem Statement, and Research Sources

SECOND SEMESTER

Module II: Leading and Managing Complex and Diverse Organizations

DEXL 726 – Quantitative Research Methods and Design
DEXL 704 – Leadership and Cultural Change
DEXL 717 – Guided Dissertation Seminar I

Dissertation Milestone: Finalize Dissertation Topic, Develop Problem Statement, and Start Literature Review

THIRD SEMESTER

Module III: Using Research, Best Practice, and Technology to Lead and Facilitate Change

DEXL 727 – Qualitative Research Methods and Design
DEXL 706 – Applied and Action Research
DEXL 705 – Field Experience I

Dissertation Milestone: Complete Literature Review, Finalize Problem Statement, and Develop Research Questions

FOURTH SEMESTER

Module IV: Implementing and Evaluating Effective Communications and Programs

DEXL 709 – Public and Human Relations
DEXL 710 – Program Evaluation, and Organizational Improvement
DEXL 708 – Field Experience II

Dissertation Milestone: Complete Research Design and Methodology

FIFTH SEMESTER

Module V: Linking Governance, Policy, Law and Ethics

DEXL 712 – Public Policy, Law and Ethics
DEXL 713 – Executive Leadership, Finance, and Governance
DEXL 711 – Field Experience III

Dissertation Milestone: Complete and Defend Dissertation Proposal

SIXTH SEMESTER

Module VI: Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Current Leadership Research and Practice

DEXL 728 – Current Trends in Executive Leadership Practice and Research
DEXL 718 – Leadership and Diversity
DEXL 714 – Field Experience IV

Dissertation Milestone: Collect and Analyze Data and Draft Findings

SEVENTH SEMESTER

Module VII: Developing and Sustaining Individual and Organizational Leadership Capacity

DEXL 716 – Human Resource Development and Continuous Improvement
DEXL 719 – Guided Dissertation Seminar II
DEXL 720 – Guided Dissertation Seminar III

Dissertation Milestone: Finalize Conclusions and Recommendations, Complete and Defend Dissertation

OPTIONAL SEMESTER (IF NEEDED)

Module VIII: Dissertation Completion

DEXL 721 – Guided Dissertation Seminar IV
DEXL 722 – Guided Dissertation Seminar V

If additional time is needed at the end of the eighth semester, candidates can enroll in **DEXL 725** – Dissertation Continuation (0 credits) for up to three consecutive semesters.

Required for SDL Advanced Certificate:

DEXL 723 – District Level Internship (3 credits)

Want to learn more about this program?

Scan the QR code or visit:
go.sjf.edu/executiveleadership



GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Phone: (585) 385-8064
Web: go.sjf.edu/graduate
go.sjf.edu/edd

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

3690 East Avenue
Rochester, New York 14618

