

HALE Doctoral Programs

Brownbag Lunch Information Session

AGENDA

- 📌 Welcome & Introductions
- 📌 HALE Ph.D. Overview
- 📌 LEMCPE Ed.D. Overview
- 📌 Questions & Answers
- 📌 Next Steps

MSU HALE

- Within the Department of Educational Administration (EAD)
- Leading higher and adult education program
 - Ranked #1 by *US News and World Report*
- Nationally and internationally recognized faculty with a wide range of expertise

HALE degree programs

HALE MA

- Professional development
- Working in higher, adult, and lifelong education
- 30 credits
- Delivered online

SAA MA

- Founded in 1949
- Student affairs professional preparation
- 36 credits
- Delivered on campus

HALE PhD

- Advanced research
- Preparation for leadership, academic, and policy roles
- Minimum 69 credits
- Delivered on campus

HALE EdD

- Leadership for Equity-minded Change in Postsecondary Education
- Three-year, 45 credits, cohort-style program
- Delivered on campus

Faculty



Dr. Ann Austin



Dr. Sara Bano



Dr. Brendan Cantwell



Dr. Bradley Cox



Dr. Justin Gutzwa



Dr. Dongbin Kim



Dr. Patricia Marin



Dr. Kristen Renn



Dr. Riyadh Shahjahan



Dr. Matthew Wawrzynski

Basic structure of PhD Program

- ⬆ 5 core courses taken with cohort
- ⬆ 6 electives to focus on individual interests
- ⬆ Research training
- ⬆ HALE faculty advisor
- ⬆ Comprehensive exam
- ⬆ Dissertation

HALE Curriculum

5 Core Courses

Pro-seminar
Organization and Administration
Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum
Students in Postsecondary Education
Policy Development and Analysis

4 Research Courses

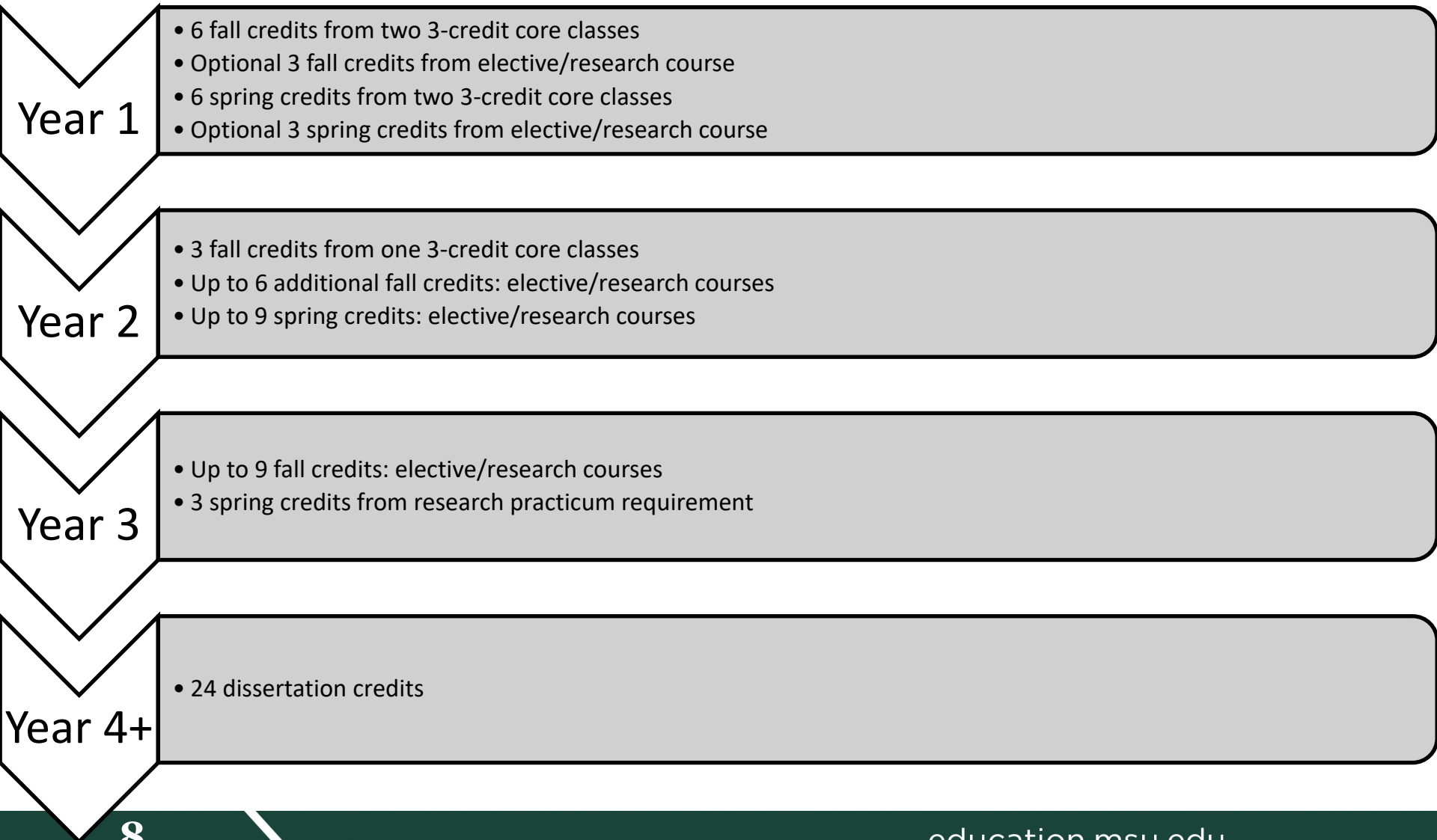
Educational Inquiry
Graduate Level Quantitative Course
Graduate Level Qualitative Course
Research Practicum

6 Elective Courses

3 EAD HALE Courses
3 Courses Approved by Guidance
Committee (can be EAD or another dept.)

24-30 Dissertation Credits

Ph.D. Program Structure (sample)





For Consideration

- ⬆ Individualized work at your own pace
(within MSU's time to degree policy)
- ⬆ Up to 9 transfer credits accepted
- ⬆ Flexibility regarding electives, research
method courses
- ⬆ Summers not required



Application Requirements

- ✓ Master's degree
- ✓ Professional experience in higher education or related field (2–4+ years preferred)
- ✓ Academic transcripts
- ✓ CV or resume
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation:
 - ✓ At least 1 of which speaks to academic capabilities
- ✓ Personal statement (1,000 words); 3 prompts
- ✓ Writing sample

Personal Statement

In 1,000 words:

1. What experiences led to your interest in pursuing the HALE Ph.D. program?
2. How will the HALE Ph.D. program at Michigan State University help you meet your professional and personal goals?
3. What qualities, characteristics, and skills do you possess that will make you a strong candidate for the HALE Ph.D. program? Be sure to include relevant leadership experiences and any adversity or challenges you have overcome.

Writing Sample

All applicants must submit a writing sample, which demonstrates **their independent or non-collaborative**, writing abilities. Appropriate writing samples may include **former class papers and academic or professional publications. Single authored writing samples** are strongly preferred. Papers taken for courses written several years ago may be updated for submission as a writing sample. If an applicant does not have a single-authored, English-language writing sample, they may submit a **collaborative piece along with a cover letter** explaining their role in and contribution to the writing process.

LEMCPE Ed.D.

- Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Leadership for Equity-Minded Change in Postsecondary Education addresses critical challenges in education today.
- We welcome students who wish to grow their professional skills in questioning, analyzing, and creating strategic change for current and future issues in postsecondary education.

Structured, Cohort Program

- ⬆ Three years, including summers.
- ⬆ Intentionally designed with a common program of study that all students complete.
- ⬆ Work as a team of scholars with similar interests.
- ⬆ Teams advised by a HALE faculty member.
- ⬆ Dissertation of practice.

For Consideration

- ⬆ Generally speaking, transfer credits are not accepted.
- ⬆ Students will complete the program as designed. There are no elective courses.
- ⬆ The program is not designed to take longer than 3 years.
- ⬆ You cannot transfer into the program from another MSU degree.

Ed.D. Program Structure

Year 1

- 3 summer credits from one introductory class
- 7 fall credits from two 3-credit classes and one 1-credit research prep
- 7 spring credits from two 3-credit classes and one 1-credit research prep

Year 2

- 3 summer credits from one research methods class
- 7 fall credits from two 3-credit classes and one 1-credit research prep
- 7 spring credits from two 3-credit classes and one 1-credit research prep

Year 3

- 3 summer credits from one research methods class
- 4 fall credits – dissertation writing
- 4 spring credits – dissertation writing

Application Requirements

- ✓ Master's degree
- ✓ Professional experience in higher education or related field (at least 5 years preferred)
- ✓ Academic transcripts
- ✓ CV or resume
- ✓ Three letters of recommendation:
 - ✓ At least 1 of which is related to professional experience and 1 related to academic capabilities
- ✓ Personal statement (750 words); 3 prompts
- ✓ Supplementary statement (500 words)



Personal Statement

Answer each question in 250 words:

1. How does the Ed.D. program in Leadership for Equity-Minded Change in Postsecondary Education align with your personal and professional goals?
2. How do you personally define equity-minded change, and how do you advance equity-minded change in your leadership and professional practice?
3. What is your approach to working in a team setting? What qualities, characteristics and values do you bring, and what do you expect from your colleagues and peers, in team-based work?





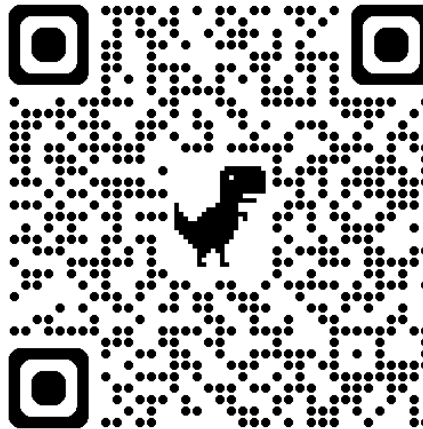
	PhD	EdD
Application Due Date	December 1, decisions in January	January 8, decisions in February
Admission	Does not require the GRE, requires master's degree, 2-4+ years of professional experience recommended, emphasizes academic research	Does not require GRE, requires master's degree, at least 5 years of relevant professional experience preferred, emphasizes research of practice
Duration	4-6 years, 69 credits	3 years, including 3 summers, 45 credits
Structure	Semi-structured (requirements and electives)	Fully structured (no electives)
Focus	Research training in higher education and/or adult learning studies	Professional preparation with explicit emphasis on equity-minded change in postsecondary education
Modality	Primarily in-person, some online electives are possible	Fully in-person
Primary Audience	Working professionals and Full-time students	Working professionals
Dissertation	Independent, academic focused research project (dissertation)	Dissertation of practice within a structured group
Funding	Departmental/MSU graduate assistantships are possible, and eligible for college scholarships and fellowships	Eligible for college scholarships and fellowships
Requires summer courses	No	Yes
Transfer credits	Limited, in accordance with MSU/HALE policy	None allowed (in principal).

We strongly recommend that a student apply for only one of the HALE doctoral programs. Applications are not transferable between programs.



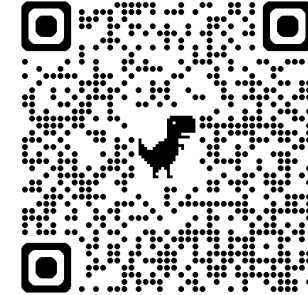
Both Programs: Application Process

1. **Account** in MSU Application Management System
 - **New Application**
2. **All requirements submitted via portal**
3. **Application fee: \$75 US**

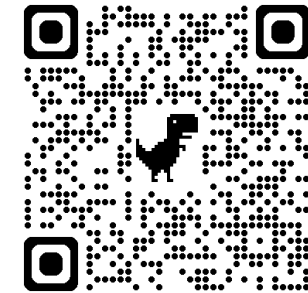


Both Programs: International Applicants

➤ MSU English Proficiency Requirements:



➤ International applicants:



➤ To enroll, must provide proof of financial support

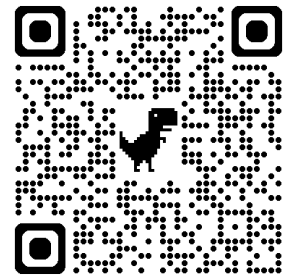
Financing the Degree

- MSU employee benefits (check with your union/employee group policies).
- Other employer/government funding.
- Personal funds.
- Loans or other financial aid.
- For full-time PhD students: limited graduate assistantships via dept/MSU

Tuition (excluding fees) 2025–2026

	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT/ INTERNATIONAL
Per credit-hour basis	\$970.25	\$1,806.75
45 credits (Ed.D)	\$43,661.25	\$81,303.75
69 credits (Ph.D.)	\$66,947.25	\$124,665.75

MSU TUITION CALCULATOR:





Additional funding opportunities

- Graduate Assistantships (stipend, a tuition waiver, and health insurance)
- Travel support from the department/graduate School
- For PhD students: University Distinguished Fellowship (UDF), Erickson Fellowship, Summer Research Fellowship (and dissertation), and Johnson Dissertation Fellowship
- For both PhD and EdD students: College of Education Scholarships



Key Questions from Prospective Students

📌 Admissions & Application

- 📌 Admission criteria, competitiveness and acceptance rate
- 📌 Tips for application materials

📌 Funding & Cost

- 📌 Availability and types of funding

📌 Program Structure & Expectations

- 📌 First-year expectations
- 📌 Timeline to completion

📌 Work-Study Balance

- 📌 Balancing full-time work and study
- 📌 Part-time options
- 📌 Program modality and flexibility

📌 Outcomes & Academic Pathways

- 📌 Career outcomes and professional development
- 📌 Dissertation and academic milestones
- 📌 What makes the EdD unique

Additional Questions & Answers: HALE faculty and current PhD students

Thanks!

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