

## Application Essay

### Doctorate of Education Program

As a part of the application process for our Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, we would like to learn about you, your interests, and how you are hoping this program will help you develop personally and professionally. Therefore, an Application Essay is required that addresses the following four areas:

- Why have you decided to apply to this doctoral program at this time? We know that a decision to enter into doctoral studies is likely done with great care. After all, making a decision to begin an intensive educational journey should be informed by a wide variety of personal and professional reflection. We expect that you have done a great deal of consideration prior to deciding to apply to this program. What has led you to believe that *now* is a good time in your ongoing personal and professional development to pursue this degree? How will engaging in the educational opportunities required during this degree program promote your ongoing development?
- What professional and learning strengths are you hoping you will build upon during this doctoral program? What are the personal characteristics and skills that you hope this degree program will help you strengthen? Why do you believe this degree program is well suited to help you achieve your goals? How are you hoping your growth during this program will benefit your organization?
- Our doctoral program places an emphasis on applying educational leadership ideas and practices within your existing professional organization. In what ways are you currently exercising leadership within your professional organization? What possible opportunities do you see for developing your leadership within your current organization? What possible challenges do you see as you seek to refine how you exercise your leadership within your current organization? What are the biggest supports you will have within your organization that you will help you as you apply educational leadership ideas and practices? What supports do you think you will need as you try and apply new ideas and practices within your organization?
- Any doctoral study is a challenging educational journey. Individuals are often concerned about the rigor of a doctoral program, the writing, the research, or the intense amount of information that will need to be synthesized. Other concerns might involve balancing advanced academic study with other commitments and responsibilities. One thing we know is that *every* student will need some kinds of support while pursuing a doctoral degree. At SNHU, we take great pride in providing our students the support that they need to be as successful as they want to be. As you think about yourself and this educational journey, what are you thinking will be the challenges you will face? What types of supports or assistance do you anticipate being the most helpful to you as you pursue this degree? How might our team at SNHU be able to best support you and help you be as successful as you can be, both during and after this program?

You are also invited to share anything else you would like to share about yourself as we consider your application. Information provided in this essay will be considered confidentially.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts! There is no specific length required for this Application Essay, but it is expected that you will share original, well-developed responses to the ideas and questions we've asked you to consider.