

DOCTOR OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Dr. Ruth G. Wylie, Program Director

Mission Statement

The mission of the DEL is to develop leaders capable of integrating theory with practice at the executive level for sustainability and service in organizations, communities or institutions in an increasingly complex world.

Unique Strengths of Program for Students

DEL graduates are able to generate, conserve, and transform leadership knowledge and practice while developing other aspiring leaders to become scholar-practitioners. The DEL accomplishes this purpose by creating an intellectual community that promotes critical thinking and deep reflection, facilitates both creativity and rigor, and develops the research skills necessary for executive leadership, scholarly integration and lifelong learning and community service.

From the Faculty

The DEL is premised on the groundbreaking research done by the Carnegie Foundation's Center for the Advancement of Teaching on the current state of doctoral education in the United States. The purpose of the DEL is to produce the next generation of senior-level leaders who are both scholars and practitioners and can integrate theory and practice in the field of leadership. Such future leaders are necessary to ethically guide institutions, organizations, and communities in an increasingly complex, dynamic, and diverse world. These scholar-practitioners will be capable of generating, conserving, and transforming leadership practice and knowledge and developing other aspiring leaders to become leadership scholar-practitioners.

Admission Requirements

To apply for admission to the program, candidates must complete an application packet that includes the application for admission, official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended for graduate coursework, a five- to seven-page discussion paper describing the applicant's leadership-related goals and anticipated contribution to a doctoral leadership cohort, a resume detailing a minimum of five years of professional experience in a leadership role, and two letters of academic and professional recommendation. Applicants are required to have a master's or first professional degree from a regionally accredited institution with at least a 3.00 GPA. Applicants with less than a 3.0 may be considered upon request to the Program Director and Associate Dean. Once the application is complete, the DEL program admissions committee interviews prospective students for acceptance into the program. There is a \$50 application fee which is waived for military applicants.

Program Outcomes

In order to achieve the desired program outcome of producing scholar practitioners capable of leading at the executive level the following DEL individual student learning outcomes are established:

1. Sense and shape opportunities for, and threats to, future growth and development through embedding scanning, creative, and learning processes into organizations, communities, or institutions.

2. Make timely judgments to seize opportunities and to bring about those decisions by a) developing and rewarding creative action and b) diminishing assets and processes that no longer add value.
3. Assemble, align, and reconfigure tangible and intangible assets to sustain organizations', communities', or institutions' viability for the future.
4. Model, design, and implement scholar-practitioner practices and processes to develop ethical leadership in organizational, community, or institutional contexts.
5. Assess existing research and practices and design, conduct, and interpret research to contribute to the theory and practice of leadership within one's discipline and in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, or transdisciplinary contexts.
6. Generate and critically evaluate new knowledge, conserve the most important ideas and findings that are a legacy of past and current work and engage in the transformational work of communicating knowledge responsibly to others.

What will you study?

The Doctor of Executive Leadership is a 58-credit-hour course of study that focuses on leadership in context across disciplines and boundaries in a global environment. The program sequence includes 27 leadership core credits, 12 research credits, 10 credits for pro-seminars and portfolio and 9 credits for the dissertation. Continuous enrollment is required, although a request for a leave of absence may be requested. The Dissertation Continuation course is 3 credits for the first semester enrollment and 1 credit each semester thereafter until degree completion. The program offers courses by online and blended delivery. Blended courses complete at least 40% of the instructional activities during in-person meetings at least once a month and no less than twice per course. International students with an F1 visa must complete a contract for each course which specifies meeting dates for the course. Transfer credits may be applied toward the degree requirements depending on evaluation of transfer equivalence. Transfer students must complete at least 25% of the credit hour requirements with the University of Charleston.

For a detailed list of courses, please see the Course Listing section of this catalog under "Doctor of Executive Leadership Courses."

Leadership Core Courses:

DEL 710 Leadership Theories and Perspectives	3 Credits
DEL 720 Leadership in Context	3 Credits
DEL 730 Ethics: Values and Decision Making	3 Credits
DEL 740 Organizational Dynamics.....	3 Credits
DEL 750 Collaborative Leadership	3 Credits
DEL 760 Leadership Development	3 Credits
DEL 802 Conceptual Frameworks for Leadership	3 Credits
DEL 810 Complexity and Sustainability	3 Credits
DEL 830 Executive Decision-Making.....	3 Credits

Research Courses:

DEL 700 Culture of Inquiry.....	2 Credits
DEL 727 Leadership Research and Design Logic.....	3 Credits
DEL 800 Responsible Conduct of Research.....	1 Credit
DEL 805 Quantitative Research	3 Credits
DEL 815 Qualitative Research	3 Credits

Dissertation and Pro-seminar Courses:

DEL 900 Creating Portfolios	1 Credit
DEL 901 Dissertation I.....	3 Credits

DEL 902 Dissertation II.....	3 Credits
DEL 903 Dissertation III	3 Credits
DEL 904 Dissertation Continuation.....	1-3 Credits
DEL 910 Pro-seminar I: Generating, Conserving & Transforming	3 Credits
DEL 920 Pro-seminar II: Generating, Conserving & Transforming	3 Credits
DEL 930 Pro-seminar III: Generating, Conserving & Transforming	3 Credits

Candidacy:

A DEL student should normally complete all Leadership Core courses, successfully defend the Professional Portfolio, and successfully defend the dissertation within three years of entry into the doctoral program.

An extension of one academic year will be granted upon a student’s request, with the Chair’s endorsement, to the Program Director. With endorsement by the Chair, a student may request an extension for one additional academic year. That extension must be approved by the Program Director in consultation with the Associate Dean. If the student fails to complete the degree requirements for the program by the end of the second extension period, the student will be dismissed from the program. Dismissal from the program may be appealed to the Associate Dean who may grant conditional readmission with approval of the Dean.

Failure to maintain continuous enrollment in at least one credit hour from the achievement of candidacy until the dissertation is accepted also will result in loss of candidacy.