

Statement of Intent – EdD Applicants

Maximum length 500 words

The Statement of Intent relates your past leadership experiences to the EdD degree, and how you would apply your EdD Educational Leadership learning to future opportunities. The Admissions Committee relies on the Statement of Intent to get to know you as a professional and as a student, through this introduction to your interests and experiences. Anything you would like the Admissions Committee to know about you for adjudication purposes should be included in this document.

Consider discussing any of the following topics:

- Your identity, e.g., BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+, and how your identity influences your leadership and scholarship
- Your leadership philosophy, including the attitudes, dispositions, and values that influence your leadership
- An area of interest that you would like to pursue as a Problem of Practice for which you would formulate an Organizational Improvement Plan (see below for additional information about the Problem of Practice)
- Why you are applying to the EdD Program, your specific Program area, and your scholastic and career goals
- The EdD degree’s goodness-of-fit through examples and evidence, beyond simply describing personal passions
- Your formal and informal training in Educational Leadership and other related academic and professional skills and experience with organizational/ improvement planning

Problem of Practice (PoP)

The PoP is an essential aspect of the EdD degree and defined as a “persistent, contextualized, and specific issue embedded in the work of a professional practitioner, the addressing of which has the potential to result in improved understanding, experience, and outcomes” (Perry, 2015). Ultimately, the PoP will be framed using your comprehension of and ability to apply theory and literature that you gain through coursework. For more information about the PoP, please go to this [link](#).

Note that if you discuss a PoP in your Statement of Intent, it is understood that as students learn and grow through the program, Problems of Practice may change significantly.

If you discuss a PoP in your Statement of Intent, consider that the PoP is:

- Connected to leadership
- Familiar to you
- Issue-based
- Relevant to your workplace
- Practical and observable
- Identified as a perceived gap between the current and a future state
- Manageable to address
- Actionable (leads to a plan that can be implemented and measured)
- Reasonable, given your position in the organization
- Identified through practice, dialogue, and examining qualitative and quantitative research
- Underpinned by a strong desire for organizational change
- NOT driven by solutions!

Key Readings

Archbald, D. (2008). Research versus problem solving for the education leadership doctoral thesis: Implications for form and function. *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 44(5), 704–739.

Belzer, A., & Ryan, S. (2013). Defining the problem of practice dissertation: Where's the practice, what's the problem. *Planning & Changing*, 44.

Dirkx, J. M. (2006). Studying the complicated matter of what works: Evidence-based research and the problem of practice. *Adult Education Quarterly*, 56(4), 273-90.

Ma, V., Dana, N., Adams, A., & Kennedy, B. (2018). Understanding the problem of practice: An analysis of professional practice EdD dissertations. *Impacting Education: Journal on Transforming Professional Practice*, 3, 13-22. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1357990>