

## Statement of Intent – EdD ABA Applicants

### Maximum length 500 words

The Statement of Intent relates your past experiences to the EdD degree, and how you would apply your EdD 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, beyond your resume. Anything you would like the Admissions Committee to know about you for adjudication purposes should be included in this document.

Consider discussing any the following topics:

- Your identity, e.g. BIPOC, LGBTQ2+, and how your identity influences your practice, leadership, and scholarship
- Your leadership and or scholarship philosophy, including the attitudes, dispositions, and values that influence you
- An area of interest that you would like to pursue as a Problem of Practice for which you would formulate a Dissertation in Practice (see below for additional information about the Problem of Practice)
- Why you are applying to the EdD Program 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 Applied Behaviour Analysis and other related academic and professional skills and experience

### **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.” 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:

- Familiar to you
- Relevant to your workplace
- Issue-based
- 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.