

## **Guide to the Writing Sample**

### **Applicants to the EdD Program**

#### **How long is the Writing Sample?**

Each program has provided an approximate length with the caveat that the sample should be **no longer than** the maximum number of suggested pages.

#### **EdD Applied Behaviour Analysis**

- About 10 pages, double spaced, excluding references

#### **EdD Curriculum & Pedagogy**

- Between 10-20 pages, double spaced, excluding references

#### **EdD Educational Leadership & EdD Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice**

- Between 15-20 pages double spaced, excluding references

#### **May I submit a work on which I was a contributing author?**

- No. You must be the sole author of any work you submit.

#### **Can I use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create a Writing Sample?**

- The goal of creating a Writing Sample is to help the admissions committee assess who you are as a potential EdD student, and if you are a good fit for the program.

Western has published Provisional Guidance for the use of Generative AI in Graduate Studies. In particular, they apply the Principles of **Accountability, Integrity, Transparency, Privacy and Data Security and Inclusion**. If you elect to use AI, you **must log its use** as part of the total document length. There is a useful table included here, to assist you to accurately describe what tasks you have allocated to AI.

**Table 1** (below) can help you identify and log your use accurately.

Suchikova, Y. et al. (2025) GAIDeT (Generative AI Delegation Taxonomy): A taxonomy for humans to delegate tasks to generative artificial intelligence in scientific research and publishing. *Accountability in Research*. (1–27).

**Table 1.** GAIDeT – a taxonomy for the delegation of tasks from humans to GAI in scientific research and publishing.

Macro level	Micro level
Conceptualization	Idea generation Defining the research objective Formulating research questions and hypotheses Feasibility assessment and risk evaluation Preliminary hypothesis testing (based on simulations or automated modeling)
Literature review	Literature search and systematization Writing the literature review Analysis of market trends and/or patent environment Evaluation of the novelty of the research and identification of gaps based on the literature review
Methodology	Research design Development of experimental or research protocols Selection of research methods
Software development and automation	Code generation Code optimization Process automation Creation of algorithms for data analysis
Data management	Data collection Validation (assessment of data quality and reliability) Data cleaning (identification and removal of missing or anomalous data) Data curation and organization Data analysis Visualization Reproducibility testing
Writing and editing	Text generation Proofreading and editing Summarizing text Formulation of conclusions Adapting and adjusting emotional tone Translation Reformatting (automated adaptation of text, references, and layout to journal or publishing requirements) Preparation of press releases and outreach materials (automated adaptation of research summaries for different audiences)
Ethics review	Bias analysis and potential discrimination assessment Ethical risk analysis Monitoring compliance with ethical standards Data confidentiality monitoring
Supervision	Quality assessment (analysis of methodological reliability, result validity, and thoroughness in addressing research questions) Trend identification Identification of limitations Recommendations (suggestions for practical applications of results, methodology improvement, or future research directions) Publication support (writing cover letters and responding to reviewers' comments, ensuring compliance with journal guidelines)

**Does the writing sample need citations?**

- Yes. The writing sample must be cited correctly throughout the paper.

**How recent does the sample need to be?**

- There is no limit on when writing samples were written. You are welcome to use work you have submitted in other programs, as long as they adhere to all EdD program requirements.

**Does the writing sample need to be a work that I have published?**

- The writing sample may be published or unpublished work.
- Consider developing your writing sample from a well-developed and polished version or section of your
  - Masters research proposal/thesis/directed research project
  - Journal article
  - Graduate course writing

**Does the writing sample need to be an essay?**

- Not necessarily, but it must reflect the appropriate use of citation formatting.
- The Writing Sample should be based on an argument, and demonstrate your ability to present and defend a position, using evidence.
- The Writing Sample must follow the conventions of good writing including organization, structure, paragraphs, sentences, grammar, punctuation, etc.

**Does the writing sample need to relate specifically to the program field?**

- The Admissions Committee typically prefers that writing samples be related to the field of study. However, this is not necessarily required. If you are feeling unsure of the suitability of your Writing Sample, please use this as an opportunity to produce original work that is related to the field of study.

**If I am applying to the PhD in Education Studies, do these same guidelines apply?**

- The PhD in Education Studies and the EdD programs are unique and may have different admittance requirements.

**I still have questions. Who do I contact?**

- Please feel welcome to contact us! See this page for details:  
[https://www.edu.uwo.ca/graduate-education/info\\_meeting.html](https://www.edu.uwo.ca/graduate-education/info_meeting.html)