Ed.D. in Executive Leadership

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. School of Education
Why Earn an Ed.D. at Fisher?

• Prepare for career advancement through a program that responds to the interests and needs of managers and executives in various disciplines.

• Develop strong skills in core leadership, scholarship, and research competencies to be effective in today’s complex, diverse, and information-driven organizations.

• 77% of program alumni received a promotion or salary increase after completing the program.
Designed for the Working Professional

The program is intended for the working professional, with classes meeting on alternate weekends in an accelerated program of study.

- Friday evenings from 5:30–9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Dissertation milestones are incorporated throughout the program to support candidates.

“The weekend schedule was wonderful. Meeting every two weeks allowed plenty of time to read and prepare assignments and left my nights (and every other weekend) still free. My life didn't stop (although it was significantly altered) by the program because of the schedule. I learned better time management skills and still maintained a healthy work/life/school balance.”

–Dr. Chris Pels, Human Resources/Business Development, Dawnbreaker
Program Highlights

- Approximately 28 months to complete (includes writing and defending dissertation).

- Strong candidate support network comprised of faculty, executive mentors, advisors, and candidate teams.

- Cohort model with small faculty-candidate ratio—12:1 and team teaching.

- Seminar approach combining class lectures, discussion, case studies, and nationally recognized guest speakers.

- Ed.D. vs. Ph.D.
Candidate Career Areas

Candidates in the Ed.D. in Executive Leadership Program represent many different professional groups:

- P-12 Education (43%)
- Higher Education (20%)
- Business (16%)
- Health (11%)
- Other Non-Profit (9%)
Locations

- St. John Fisher College – Rochester, NY
- Extension Sites*
  - The College of New Rochelle – New Rochelle, NY
  - Regional Higher Education Center at Onondaga Community College – Syracuse, NY

*All Ed.D. candidates at extension sites will be required to take one course on the St. John Fisher College campus. The course is typically completed in an accelerated session over several consecutive days.
Cost of the Program

The Ed.D. in Executive Leadership is a 60-credit-hour program. Tuition is currently $1,265 per credit hour. The following are included in the tuition:

- Required textbooks and laptop computer
- Personalized advisement and registration each semester
- Access to online library and research services
- Mentoring based on individual needs and interests
- Customized seminars to support dissertation development and completion
- Transportation and accommodations for extension site candidates to Rochester campus for one required course.
Admission Requirements

The Ed.D. in Executive Leadership admits a cohort of approximately 20-25 candidates.

Admission is limited to qualified candidates who have:

• Minimum of three years of successful management/administrative-level experiences.

• Completed a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

• A proven record of excellence in mid-level leadership and management.
Application Process

Applicants must submit the following:

• Completed admission application
• Official college transcripts documenting completion of a master’s degree
• Two letters of recommendation
• Supervisor’s Performance Appraisal form
• Three professional writing samples
• Current résumé
• Applicant essay

Applicants who meet the above requirements will be required to participate in a formal interview process and provide an on-demand writing sample to day of the interview.
Testimonials

“I chose to attend the Education Doctorate (Ed.D.) Program in Executive Leadership at SJFC because of the program structure—including curriculum, delivery methods, and instruction model. I also like the focus on executive leadership that can be applied to multiple industries, so I had the opportunity to learn from leaders of health care, secondary education, and business.”  
Dr. Kris Duffy, President, SUNY Adirondack

“It was the most difficult academic experience that I’ve ever had…but well worth it. All of the professors were very supportive and wanted to see us be successful and complete the program. The group format worked well, as you had a cadre of peers to encourage you throughout the entire process. Furthermore, the class discussion was insightful and enlightening. I would highly recommend the program to an individual who is not afraid of working hard and who wants a challenge.”  
Dr. Lesli Myers, Superintendent of Schools, Brockport Central School District

“It’s transformational. It’s that simple. I entered as a well-intended, hard-working administrator. I left as a prepared leader committed to create better outcomes for all in the community.”  
Dr. Ryan Pacatte, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Learning, Palmyra-Macedon Central School District
Additional Information

View complete application requirements and apply online.

Download the Ed.D. program brochure [pdf].

Review the Ed.D. in Executive Leadership program schedule.

Obtain financial aid information.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at (585) 385-8064 or grad@sjfc.edu.