

**DATE:** January 26, 2018

**SUBJECT:** New Academic Program  
 Austin Peay State University  
 Educational Leadership, Doctor of Education  
 (CIP 13.0401— Educational Leadership and Administration)

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Austin Peay State University proposes a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership designed to develop practitioner scholars as administrative leaders who use professional skills and knowledge, evidence-based practices, and related educational literature to address the difficult problems facing education and society. The program is designed for part-time working professionals who hold a current leadership license as well as those who seek beginning leadership licensure. This degree will be APSU’s first doctorate. APSU currently offers an Educational Specialist (EdS) which will serve as a feeder program for the proposed EdD.

**INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNING BOARD APPROVAL**

The proposed Educational Leadership EdD program was approved by the APSU Board of Trustees on December 1, 2017.

**PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Fall 2018

**RELEVANCE TO INSTITUTIONAL MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

The program aligns with the APSU institutional mission as a comprehensive university committed to raising the educational attainment of the citizenry, developing programs and services that address regional needs, and providing collaborative opportunities that connect university expertise with private and public resources. Increased graduate enrollment through new and existing graduate programs is one of the key contributors to the overall strategic plan to reach a targeted enrollment growth to 15,000 students by 2025.

**CURRICULUM**

The Doctor of Education (EdD) will consist of 60 credit hours, addressing learning outcomes in leadership theory and practices, organizational analysis, research inquiry and evaluation, and the analysis of educational policy culminating in the dissertation. The 60 hour program curriculum is organized into core courses (39 hours), elective courses (9 hours), and dissertation research (12 hours).

The Martha Dickerson College of Education has been accredited since 1954 and was last reviewed in spring 2014. APSU will initiate the accreditation for the EdD from Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) with accreditation in 2021 as part of the College’s next full review.

**PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY**

The program will offer coursework year-round on a part-time basis. Courses will be offered face-to-face, hybrid or on-line courses. The EdD program at APSU projects attrition rates to be 6-9 percent. The program would expect to lose 4 students every two years aiming for graduation rates threshold of 73 percent within three years of matriculation.

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Students</b>	20	15	15	15	15	15	15
<b>Graduates</b>	--	--	16	11	11	11	11

**PROGRAM DUPLICATION**

During the assessment process carried out by the independent contractor, 9 doctoral programs in educational leadership were identified within a 150 mile radius of APSU. Collectively, these programs conferred less than 200 degrees in 2016. According to the Hanover Research Institute (HRI), there are 210 average annual openings in educational administrator positions are forecasted through 2024. Consequently, HRI concluded that “the analysis of the Tennessee competitive landscape suggests that there are ample market opportunities for the addition of an EdD program offered by APSU.” One of the unique features of the proposed program at APSU will allow students to complete the leadership licensure while obtaining the doctorate.

**EXTERNAL JUDGEMENT**

On July 19-21, 2017 an external review was conducted by Dr. Patrick Jenlick, Regents Professor at the E. J. Campbell Endowed Chair of Educational Leadership and EdD Program Director for Educational Leadership at Stephen F. Austin University and Dr. Steve Gruenert, Chair of the Department of Leadership at Indiana State University. The external reviewers indicated that “there is a deep commitment on the part of APSU personnel as well as strong support from the community, school districts, military base, and corporate entities in the region that the program will serve.” Based on this overall assessment of the proposed EdD program, including need and viability, led the reviewers to recommend approval and concluded that “this new EdD program will ultimately come to redefine the university as it moves forward.”

**STUDENT DEMAND**

Austin Peay State University sought input from area school districts, community colleges, masters and EdS graduates of APSU as well as active duty military and dependent alumni to assess the potential pool of applicants. These independent surveys of EdS graduates in the area surrounding APSU support a strong interest in the proposed EdD program.

Additionally, focus groups conducted with local administrators in 2016 confirmed the growing need for and demand for more administrators with advanced degree attainment. The external feasibility study conducted by the Hanover Research Institute also confirmed the student demand for the Educational Leadership EdD proposed program.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES**

Nationally, education administration positions are projected to grow faster than the average between 2014 and 2024, with replacement and new positions leading to approximately 19,000 openings annually (Projections Central, 2017). Regionally, the Southeast is among the largest markets for educational leadership graduates with a forecasted 3,700 average annual openings. The projected growth rate in Tennessee for educational administrators is 6.3 percent below the state's overall growth projections for all occupations of 13.5 percent. However, openings for elementary and secondary school administrators (the largest group of administrators) are projected to grow at a rate of 7.6 percent. There is an opportunity for further expansion of doctoral awards in the APSU region to meet the demand.

### **INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO DELIVER THE PROGRAM**

The adequacy of the faculty in the Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education to meet the demands of the inaugural doctoral program is paramount to APSU. There are currently four faculty members with extensive experience in leadership roles in K-12 schools. The fifth faculty member has a rich background in research. In order to support the proposed EdD, three new faculty members will be hired prior to the launch of the program. After that time, an additional faculty member will be hired each year until an equivalent of six full-time faculty are dedicated to the program by the year 2024.

The facilities are adequate for this type of program as are the library and information technology resources. The proposed doctoral program will be housed in the Claxton Building and a suite will be dedicated for the program director, administrative assistant and doctoral faculty. The program will be supported through tuition and fees as well as institutional reallocations from the Provost's Office.

### **ASSESSMENT AND POST-APPROVAL MONITORING**

An annual performance review of the proposed program will be conducted for the first seven years following program approval. The review will be based on benchmarks established in the approved proposal. At the end of this period, the campus, institutional governing board, and Commission staff will perform a summative evaluation. The benchmarks include, but are not limited to, enrollment and graduation, program cost, progress toward accreditation, and other metrics set by the institution and Commission staff. If benchmarks are not met during the monitoring period, the Commission may recommend that the institutional governing board terminate the program. If additional time is needed and requested by the institutional governing board, the Commission may choose to extend the monitoring period.