

UCEA doctoral degree distinctions

	Ed.D.	Ph.D.
Primary Career Intention	Administrative leadership in educational institutions or related organizations	Scholarly practice, research, and/or teaching at university, college, institute or educational agency
Degree Objective	Preparation of professional leaders competent in identifying and solving complex problems in education. Emphasis is on developing thoughtful and reflective practitioners	Preparation of professional researchers, scholars, or scholar practitioners. Develops competencies in educational scholarship and research that focuses on acquiring new knowledge.
Knowledge Base	Develops and applies knowledge for practice. Research-based content themes and theory are integrated with practice with emphasis on application of knowledge base.	Fosters theoretical and conceptual knowledge. Content is investigative in nature with an emphasis on understanding the relationships to leadership practice and policy.
Research Methods	Develops an overview and understanding of research including data collection skills for action research, program measurement, and program evaluation.	Courses develop an understanding of inquiry, and qualitative and quantitative research. Developing competencies in research design, analysis, synthesis, and writing
Comprehensive Knowledge Assessment	Knowledge and practice portfolios provide evidence of ability to improve practice.	Written and oral assessments are used to understand theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the field.
Capstone	Well-designed applied research of value for informing educational practice.	Original research illustrating a mastery of competing theories with the clear goal of informing disciplinary knowledge.
Capstone Committee	Committee includes at least one practicing professional in an area of relevance to the candidate's program	Composed primarily of active researchers in areas relevant to students' areas of interests.

Source: M.D. Young, *UCEA Review*, XLV (2), Summer 2006.