

Doctor of Education in Adult Learning and Development Curriculum and Course Descriptions

Foundation - 21 hours

1. EDAL 7000 - The Discipline of Adult Learning and Development
 - An in-depth review of the organization and structure of adult learning systems in both formal and informal settings. The foundational emphasis is on the global adult learning and development movement, concepts, purposes and practices of the discipline.
2. EDAL 7010 - The Theory and Practice of Adult Learning and Development
 - A systematic inquiry into emerging paradigms for adult education and the educational, theoretical, cultural, and philosophical foundations of adult learning and development.
3. EDAL 7020 - Understanding Organizational Leadership and Change
 - Leadership perspectives on organizational change and the transformative relationships between adult learning and the values, structures, and processes of organizational systems. Emphasis is on community college and adult learning organizations.
4. EDAL 7030 - Diversity and Multicultural Perspectives in Adulthood
 - A study of social, cultural, economic, and cognitive conditions that influence learning in adulthood, including local, national, and international perspectives.
5. EDAL 7040 - Instructional Design and Professional Development for Adult Learners
 - Structured exploration of instructional design models and principles and how they relate to the design, delivery, and measurement of adult learning activities, including professional development of the individual in the workplace.
6. EDAL 7050 - Grant Development and Project Management
 - This course presents solutions for meeting organizational funding and sustainability challenges through development, implementation, and management of grants. Also included are strategies for leading and directing projects and teams to achieve strategic and organizational results with a focus on adult learning and community college settings.
7. EDAL 7060 - Seminar in Law, Policy, and Issues
 - An introduction to the discipline of public policy analysis and an overview of the law, policy, and issues impacting the selected field of study. Included are perspectives around compliance and organizational accreditation by relevant accrediting bodies.

Concentration – 12 hours

Concentration in Community College Leadership (CCL)

1. EDAL 7300 - Community College Organization and Administration
 - a. An examination of organizational and administrative structures and processes of the community college and meeting the unique complexities and challenges of community colleges and two-year institutions.
2. EDAL 7310 - Organizational Leadership in the Community College
 - a. Understanding the practice and role of leadership in the community college and relevant models for achieving organizational goals and improving outcomes with a focus on leadership as a process and core leadership competencies to achieve strategic organizational change.
3. EDAL 7320 - Financial and Human Resource Administration for Community Colleges
 - a. Budgeting, financial, and human resource management strategies for public community and two-year colleges. Emphasis is on compliance issues, developing human capital, and enhancing service delivery in climates of budgetary challenges.
4. EDAL 7330 - Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum in Post-Secondary Education
 - a. Leadership perspectives on the scholarship of teaching and learning, curriculum design and the barriers to student success in post-secondary education. The course examines the challenges of non-traditional students, developmental learning, transition to four-year universities, and provision of successful workforce development programs.

Concentration in Adult Learning and Workforce Development

1. EDAL 7400 - Workforce Development in a Global Economy
 - This course examines the characteristics of the contemporary global worker along with current and future trends in the global workforce market and connects to planning, designing, and implementing effective workforce development programs with consideration of market needs, external relationships and context, and analysis of outcomes.
2. EDAL 7410 - Seminar in Adult Learning Environments
 - A consideration of the spectrum of adult learning environments and opportunities, including structured institutional and unstructured informal settings where learning occurs with implications for the design of educational programs and activities.
3. EDLA 7420 - Planning and Measuring Transformative Adult Learning Programs
 - Study of organization-level models and principles for designing, conducting, and measuring outcomes of adult learning programs in various workplace, educational, and community settings where adult learning is promoted. Emphasis is on programs that target contemporary adult learning and workforce development needs for transforming individual capabilities, beliefs, perceptions, and expectations.
4. EDAL 7430 - Teaching Disadvantaged Adult Learners
 - This course examines the educational, social, cultural, economic, and cognitive conditions that create barriers to adult learner success and presents instructional and learning strategies that can mitigate their impact.

Electives and Support – 6 hours

1. Related existing NSU Graduate Courses (Other doctoral concentrations, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology, Educational Psychology, Curriculum & Instruction, Student Affairs in Higher Education, nursing, health, research, etc.)
2. EDAL 7160 - Scholarly Writing for Research and Practice
 - Knowledge and skills to write effectively in a variety of academic contexts. Included are effective criteria and techniques for improving scholarly writing and practice.
3. EDAL 7190 – Special Topics in Adult Learning
 - Supervised, independent study of selected adult learning topic(s). May be repeated for credit with varied topics. Prerequisite: Consent of the Department Head.

Application – 3 hours (Course content/practicum site will vary with concentration)

1. EDAL 7170 - Applied Principles of Adult Learning or Organizational Leadership
 - Structured exploration of the application of the principals of adult learning and/or organizational leadership through an individualized practicum experience in a setting appropriate for the selected field of study.

Research & Analysis – 12 hours

1. EDAL 7100 - Methods for Planning and Conducting Educational Research
 - A systematic look at the design, methods, interpretation, ethics, and challenges of educational research, with emphasis on research skills and research as a way of thinking.
2. EDAL 7110 - Qualitative Research Methods for Educational Research
 - Methods and design of education research using qualitative methods. Emphasis on selecting methods, collecting and analyzing qualitative data, and ethical issues particular to qualitative methods.
3. EDAL 7120 - Quantitative and Statistical Methods for Educational Research
 - Research methods, data collection, statistical techniques, interpretation of results, and evaluation of quantitative educational research.
4. EDAL 7130 - Doctoral Seminar: Planning for Practice and Research
 - Planning specific methods, approaches, and processes for educational research and evidence-based decision-making leading to development of the doctoral dissertation proposal.

Dissertation – 9 semester hours (minimum)

1. EDAL 7180 – Dissertation Research
 - Recommendation of major professor, approval of committee, and approval of program coordinator.