Regis College Doctor of Education FAQs

General Questions

Why should I pursue a Regis College EdD rather than a PhD?

If your goal is to be more theoretical, then the PHD is for you. However, scholarly practitioners who earn an EdD are prepared to use systems thinking while facing real problems in education and leadership. These practitioners know how to collect and analyze data, consume relevant reference material, conduct learning sessions, and create positive learning communities. Whether you wish to excel at teaching and learning, leading or guiding organizational change, the Regis College doctorate of education is for you.

What makes the Regis EdD unique and a good fit for me?

EdD students at Regis College get the individual support and guidance that she/he needs to find their own path to earn a doctorate. Students are challenged to stretch educationally while being supported in a small cohort model where peers support each other’s growth. Students are encouraged to bring their experiences into the classroom, using andragogy (Knowles, 2011) to guide and encourage intellectual growth, ethical leadership skills development and a scholar-practitioner perspective on resolving organizational issues. We at Regis College are using the Carnegie Project on the EdD (CPED) format—based on a small cohort, innovative, and supportive learning community—as our model. CPED is working towards creating an EdD that uses action research to improve an area of practice. Our students will consider authentic problems of practice then implement possible solutions before reporting findings so that others may benefit from their experiences. Additionally, like all graduate programs at Regis College, the EdD takes into account that students are busy individuals, often working full time with many outside commitments. The program is offered in a hybrid model with courses during the academic year meeting one Saturday per month, with substantial online work in-between class meetings. Summer courses are also offered in a hybrid model.

Is the Regis College EdD accredited? NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) has accepted our program. This regional acknowledgement is the highest level of accreditation awarded to any college.

What concentrations are offered within the EdD? There are three concentrations offered with the EdD however, since we offer only one final EdD degree, a student may choose to take four elective courses to create their own focus of knowledge development.

The concentrations are:

- Teaching and Learning
- Academic Administration
Institutional Research and Planning

**How many hours are required for the EdD?** The Regis College EdD is comprised of 51 credit hours including the three capstone courses.

**What is the availability of the main campus library?** A wealth of library resources, including journals and research databases, are available online. Visiting the campus library in person is always an option. Students can confer with research librarians via phone and email. Contact Carolyn Sager, Information Services Director by email at carolyn.sager@regiscollege.edu and by phone: 781.768.7304

**Admissions Questions**

**Does Regis College accept transfer credits into the EdD?** While all students must complete 51 quarter hours in the EdD program, there is an opportunity to apply up to six credits of previously earned coursework from another program or institution to satisfy part of the elective requirement.

**Course Questions**

**What is the delivery format for courses?** All EdD courses run on the Regis College academic calendar: 15-week terms start in September and January, six week courses run in Summer I (May to June) and Summer 2 (July). These Hybrid courses use a mixture of face-to-face and online instruction.

**When and where do classes meet?** Courses are offered in the Hybrid format. Fall and Spring on-campus courses meet on four Saturdays per term at the Regis College campus in College Hall. Summer I and Summer II courses meet three or four times per course. These dates will be set prior to the course runs.

**How does the Capstone differ from a Dissertation?**

The Regis College EdD capstone project is built across three classes instead of the traditional five chapter thesis done after all classes are completed. The capstone includes:

1. Problem identification and lit review
2. Methods and data collection
3. Reporting conclusions.

Contrary to what Dr. Dan Butin (speaking engagement July, 2011) stated “No one will be interested in your dissertation except your mother,” the Regis College capstone project is designed to create new knowledge regarding learning, education and leadership that will be put into practice immediately. Your capstone may indeed result in a thesis; however, this innovative program supports alternative research/learning experiences that can be reported out in many
ways. Some students may wish to create multiple publishable articles, others might wish to publish and present their work at national conferences, and even other students may want to create a screenplay or production so that their findings can readily be placed in the main stream of ideas. Student creativity and authentic learning is supported in this process.

**What is the doctoral capstone project?** The doctoral capstone project, based on the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) represents a focused scholarly approach to investigating a problem of educational practice. Students first identify the problem to be addressed in their project before they undertake an educationally challenging process of inquiry and reflection about the origins, significance, and nature of the problem, as well as alternative ways to address it in practice. Doctoral candidates use theoretical lenses and theories to connect their problems of practice to the context of today’s body of knowledge.

**When do I start focusing on the doctoral project?** The doctoral capstone project is the focus of student activity after completing the final research course. However, preparation for the thesis begins in the first term and with the first set of courses. The content and learning experiences of every course have been designed to help students meet the knowledge and skill requirements of the doctoral capstone project.

**Do committees review doctoral capstone project proposals and the thesis themselves?** Yes, there are capstone project review committees who will hear candidates’ proposal presentations and review final doctoral defenses. All doctoral defenses take place on the Regis College campus in celebration of this achievement.

**What support is offered for students completing their theses?** Each student is assigned a faculty research adviser from the start of the program. Students are encouraged to form small cohorts who are able to support each other in her/his pursuit of new understanding.

**What are the components of the doctoral capstone project?**

**Doctoral Capstone Project Proposal**

- A formal proposal that builds on and continues to refine the capstone project proposal, including a full literature review and a proposed research design
- Presentation of the capstone project proposal in a public faculty/student forum is required, which may be online or on campus.

**Doctoral Capstone Project and Oral Defense:**

- The final product in the program that builds on and continues to refine the proposal, including research data and findings, and implications for other practitioners and the wider field
- A successful oral defense of the doctoral thesis, before a faculty review committee, is required
Are student learning accommodations provided? Yes, in accordance to the ADA, campus-based student support includes:

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) provides for the academic support needs of all Regis students. ACE offers a variety of services to assist both undergraduate and graduate students in achieving their academic goals. These services include, but are not limited to the following: The Writing Center—Professional Writing Tutor and Peer Writing Assistants; the Quantitative (Q) Center for Professional Tutoring in all quantitative disciplines, including Professional Math Tutors; Smarthinking Online Tutoring Services; Peer Tutors and Peer Mentors (for undergraduate students only); Mini-Versity Academic Skills Workshop; Director of Student Disability Services; Learning Specialist

(Regis College Academic Catalog, Academic Advising and Student Success Services)

For more information, please contact:

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