

**\*\*Students who follow this plan and successfully complete their coursework can graduate in as little as four years. However, this depends on taking all courses in sequence, since most are offered only once per year. We work to embed dissertation milestones into courses along the way to simplify the process, which makes it much easier for students to stay on track with this plan of study.\*\***

Year/Term	Course	Credits	Format
<b>YEAR 1: ESTABLISHING THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF POLICY AND PRACTICE</b>			
Fall 1	LEAD 8001 - Educational Leadership in Organizations	3	Online
	LEAD 8002 - American Society & Ed Policy	3	Online
Spring 1	LDPS 8320 - Urban Ed: Historical & Contemporary	3	Online
	LDPS 8330 - Race/Ethnic & Gender in American Ed	3	Online
Summer 1	LDPS 8181 - Policy Implementation in Ed Administration	3	Online
	LDPS 8180 - Politics & Power in Ed Leadership	3	Online
<b>YEAR 2: DEVELOPING EXPERTISE FOR METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION</b>			
Fall 2	EDPR 8541 - Stats I <b>OR</b> EDPR 8561 - Qual Methods	3	Online
	LDPS 8305 - Issues in Educational Policy	3	Online
Spring 2	EDPR 8541 - Stats I <b>OR</b> EDPR 8561 - Qual Methods (whichever one you didn't take in Fall 2; must take both)	3	Online
	LEAD 8003 - Policy Oriented Research	3	Online
Summer 2	LDPS 8115 - Educational Leadership Seminar	3	Online
<b>YEAR 3: PLANNING FOR INQUIRY INTO A PROBLEM OF PRACTICE</b>			
Fall 3	EDPR 8542 - Stats II <b>OR</b> EDPR 8565 - Qual Methods & Analysis (advanced method of research; choose one)	3	Online
	LEAD 8140 - Planning Educational Change **Students will take Comprehensive Exam	3	Online
<b>Milestone: Pass Comprehensive Exam at the end of LEAD 8140: Planning Educational Change</b>			
Spring 3	LDPS 8155 - Seminar in Educational Law	3	Online
	LEAD 8070 - Culminating Experience **Students will defend Dissertation Proposal	3	Online
<b>Milestone: Pass Dissertation Proposal at the end of LEAD 8070: Culminating Experience</b>			
<i>Total Credit Hours at the end of official coursework: 45 hours</i>			
<b>YEAR 4: DISSERTATION WORK</b>			
Summer 3	LEAD 9000 - Dissertation Hours: Work Independently on IRB Proposal and Comprehensive Exam Edits to prepare for Fall	0/3	Online
Fall 4	LEAD 9000 - Dissertation Hours: Dissertation Cohort with Professor-Led Course Meetings	3/6	Online
Spring 4	LEAD 9000 - Dissertation Hours: Dissertation Cohort with Professor-Led Course Meetings	3/6	Online
<b>Milestone: Defend your Dissertation and Graduate after 9 Dissertation Credit Hours</b>			
<i>Total Credit Hours at end of program: 54 hours</i>			

**Note: A minimum of 54 semester hours beyond the master's degree, including 9 hours of dissertation (LEAD 9000). Students should familiarize themselves with the Thesis/Dissertation Preparation Guide before starting to write the dissertation.**