Graduation from the program is determined not only by completion of specific courses but also by demonstration of established competencies. Each student’s planned program of study will include seven components: a research core, an academic core, a rural studies core, a leadership specialization area, a cognate area, a field experience and the dissertation.

**RESEARCH CORE** ................................................................................................................................. 9 hours
- Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods (EDL 810)
- Intermediate Quantitative Research Methods (EDL 812)
- Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (EDL 811)
- Seminar in Advanced Research Methodology and Design (EDL 910)
[Note: Additional coursework in these areas may be required if the student has not completed coursework in statistics and research methodology or successfully completed and defended an appropriate thesis or specialist project.]

**ACADEMIC CORE** ................................................................................................................................. 9 hours
- Cultural and Contextual Foundations of Leadership (EDL 820)
- Moral and Ethical Dimensions of Leadership (EDL 821)
- Social and Political Dimensions of Leadership (EDL 822)
- Assessment for Educational Leaders (EDL 823)
- Public Policy Development and Assessment (EDL 824)
- Organizational Justice in Educational Settings (EDL 825)
- Leadership for Change in Organizations (EDL 826)

**LEADERSHIP SPECIALIZATION** ............................................................................................................. 12 hours
- Selected from advanced graduate course offerings and aligned with the students’ program of study to create an individualized track that is both cognizant of background experiences, prior knowledge and relevant to professional objectives.

**COGNATE AREA** ..................................................................................................................................... 6 hours
- Two advanced graduate courses chosen from a department or a program outside the leadership specialization areas.

**RURAL STUDIES CORE** ......................................................................................................................... 6 hours
- Seminar on Rural Schools and Communities (EDL 903)
- Leadership in Rural Settings (EDL 931)

**FIELD EXPERIENCE** .............................................................................................................................. 6 hours
Completion of a structured set of field experiences relevant to the student’s planned program of study, supported by skill development through symposia, tutorials, lectures and assessments. The field experience should result in a product with a potential to make a substantive contribution to improving P-12 education.

**DISSERTATION** ......................................................................................................................................... 12 hours

**MINIMUM PROGRAM TOTAL** .................................................................................................................. 60 hours