



Gratz Insider, May 2017 - Story Continuation

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Gratz Launches Doctorate in Education Leadership

This new doctorate is applicable to current or aspiring principals, administrators, department heads, professors, education directors, program planners and others in a variety of educational settings, both Jewish and secular. It was designed specifically to respond to the demands of our students and to the current trends in the field of education.

Our graduate students are predominantly working professionals with ambitious goals and limited time. In contrast, the process of completing a doctoral program can often be a lengthy and protracted one, with no end in sight. Reconciling these two extremes and applying current best practices, we have developed a more streamlined doctoral program geared to working professionals and to the goal of completion in three years.

Our new Ed.D. in Education Leadership is completed almost entirely online, with one course taken per eight-week session. This accelerated format is in contrast to the traditional 15-week semester. Beginning with the very first class, the program also follows a proactive approach to the dissertation to support degree completion.

In addition, the program is cohort-based, meaning that each group of students that starts the program at the same time follows the same order and timeline in taking their core courses. Discussion boards effectively facilitate exchanges among students within each cohort. We also offer an opportunity for face-to-face interaction over the summer, during which courses are offered in a hybrid format. Summer classes include an online component, as well as an on-campus component, which we call the Summer Residency. Educational research has demonstrated that such hybrid learning is extremely effective.

The focus of the Ed.D. in Education Leadership is on practical application. The students use recent case studies, relate concepts to their own work environments and analyze data used by educational leaders in making decisions every day. Their dissertation is an applied research project, related to their current job or area of interest.

While each cohort of students begins the Ed.D. program by taking the same set of core courses, the students later specialize in one of three tracks: Jewish education, P-12 education or higher education. The Ed.D. with the Jewish education track replaces the original Gratz doctorate in Jewish education. Students in this track benefit from the Ed.D.'s accelerated format and its focus on practical application, while still delving into the historical and philosophical foundations of Jewish education.

Dina Maiben, a student in the original Ed.D. program says, "The new program builds on the success of the existing Ed.D. at the same time that it broadens the focus to appeal to a wider community of

educators. When you bring people together who work in different segments of the field, the learning becomes incredibly rich."

True to Gratz values, the Ed.D. program is pluralistic to its core - religiously, culturally and experientially. Most importantly, it reflects Gratz's commitment to educational excellence. We are very proud to offer this opportunity for advanced learning to our students.

The Ed.D. in Education Leadership will launch this summer with our first hybrid course. The three-day Summer Residency component will be held on-campus in July. For more information about the Ed.D. program, contact Ann Perazzelli, director of enrollment management, at aperazzelli@gratz.edu or at 215-635-7300, ext. 150.