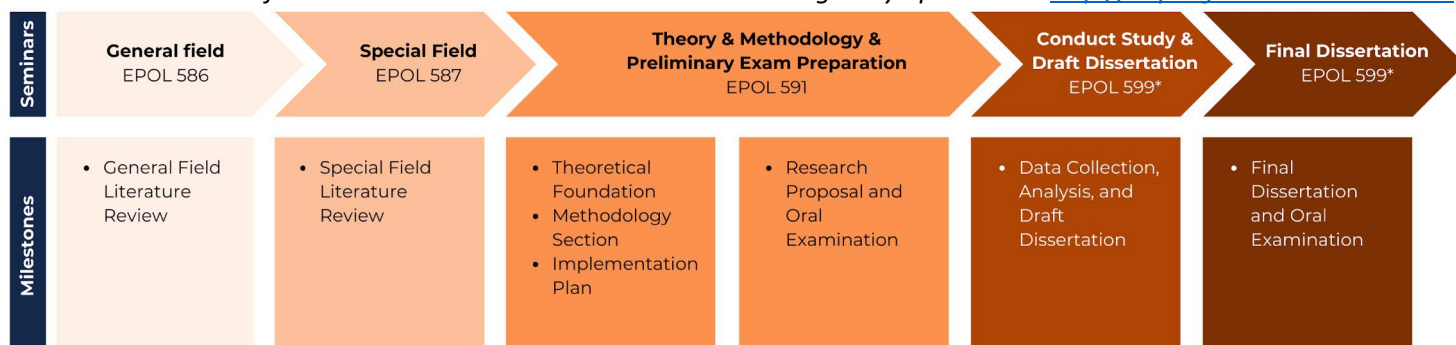


Learning Design and Leadership Exam-Dissertation Sequence: An Iterative Approach Leading to your Final Dissertation

Registration and Milestone Timelines and Policies

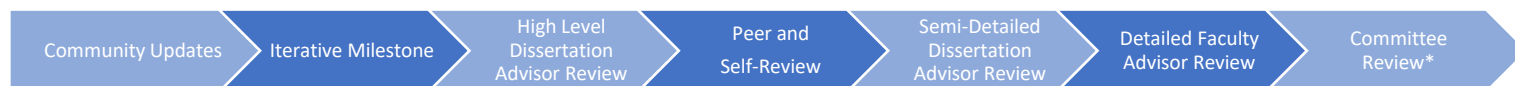
Each step involves milestones leading to the research proposal (preliminary exam) and final dissertation
Links and resources referenced in this document are available and regularly updated at: <http://ldlprogram.web.illinois.edu>



Requirement	EdD 2023+	EdD Prior to 2023	PhD
Core LDL Courses	16	16	16
Non-LDL Electives	8	8	8
Other Electives	8	8	8
Core Research Methods (550)	4	4	4
Research Methods Electives	8	4	12
ERP (EPOL 595)	N/A	N/A	0-2
EPOL 586 – General Field	4	4	4
EPOL 587 – Special Field	4	4	4
EPOL 588 – Methodology	0	4	0
EPOL 591 – Methodology and Preliminary Exam Preparation	4	4	4
EPOL 595 – Independent Study Credit to take Preliminary Exam (if not already enrolled that term)	1	1	1
SubTotal Credits	57	57	61-63
EPOL 595 – Independent Study (optional if still working on existing EDS milestone prior to prelim; maximum 12 for entire degree)	Varies	Varies	n/a
EPOL 599 – Thesis Credit (minimum 1, maximum 8)	1+	1+	1
Total Credits	64	64	64

Iterative and Cumulative Contributions and Review Process

Repeated for each step and milestone in the sequence; *allow ample time*



Milestone Notes

- Submission deadlines are not tied to specific terms. Each student sets their own deadlines.
- You will receive an incomplete for 586, 587, and 595 until the work has been approved for peer review. You do not need to register again. Just keep working on your milestone. Once finished, we will update your grade.
- The committee examination takes time, so we do not link examination timelines with your registration approval.
- You must submit your full dissertation draft about six months before when you hope to defend and graduate. This still does not guarantee a specific graduation date, but it is the minimum amount of time needed for the review and revision process. (May graduation would mean a September draft submission date.)
- Refer to the Thesis Office Calendar for the full list of Graduate College-specific timelines: <https://calendars.illinois.edu/list/3259>



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Timeline Notes: Plan at least 3 full years to complete the entire EDS

- It is common for each milestone to take at least an entire semester, if not longer. Plan accordingly.
- View the University's term schedule and the Graduate College's Final Defense and Thesis deposit deadlines.
- Following the requirements, literature review genre guidelines and the work submission and review process will reduce the review cycle frequency and duration.
- Allow time for all review and revision cycles.
- As you wait for feedback, begin working on your next steps. There is always something to do.

Example Scenario moving at a reasonable pace with time allowed for multiple review and revision cycles

- Insert EPOL 595 or EPOL 599 during the Fall or Spring if you need more time to complete a milestone.
- Anything completed ahead of this sample timeline will reduce your overall timeline, so this is simply a sample.

Insert Year	Semester	Registration Plan	Credits	Milestone Progress Plan
	Summer EDS Year 1	Nothing	0	Coursework completed in Spring of EDS Year 1 Get a head start on 586 – general field
	Fall Term A EDS Year 1	EPOL 586 4 credits	4	General Field
	Spring Term A EDS Year 2	EPOL 587 4 credits	4	Finish General Field Start on Special Field
	Summer EDS Year 2	Nothing	0	Finish Special Field
	Fall (Full Semester) EDS Year 2	EPOL 595	1-2	Chapter 3 (Theory and Methods)
	Spring (Full Semester) EDS Year 3	EPOL 595	1-2	Continue working on Chapter 3 Seek IRB approval
	Summer EDS Year 3	Nothing	0	Continue working on Chapter 3 and prepare for prelim (Research Proposal, including Chapters 1-3)
	Fall Term A or B EDS Year 3	EPOL 591	4	Take prelim during Term approved and register for that term Begin data collection after prelim
	Spring (Full Semester) EDS Year 4	EPOL 599	1-2	Continue data collection Clean-up Chapters 1-3 Map out Chapters 4 and 5 outline Create a preliminary (placeholders, such as headers) PPT Begin data analysis
	Summer EDS Year 4	Nothing	0	Complete data analysis Participate in advising sessions to seek interim feedback Prepare final dissertation draft
	Pre-Fall Year 4	N/A	n/a	Submit final dissertation draft after it has been reviewed by a copy editor Submit Draft final defense PPT
	Fall (Full Semester) Year 4	EPOL 599 – credits vary depending on how many you have left to reach 64	1-2	Revise final dissertation based on advisor feedback <i>Plan for multiple revision cycles depending on the quality of the initial draft</i>
	Spring (Full Semester) Year 5	EPOL 599 – credits vary until 64 earned	1+ any remaining needed to reach 64	Schedule final defense and deposit final dissertation



Learning Design and Leadership Exam-Dissertation Sequence: An Iterative Approach Leading to your Final Dissertation

Registration and Milestone Timelines and Policies

Registration Policies

- You do not need to be registered for a specific “course” in order to participate in the exam-sequence. You can register after the fact, if desired. This is useful to those wanting to start in the summer and/or those who have tuition-related restrictions (i.e. financial aid, tuition reimbursement, and/or are self-pay and want to postpone registering)
- You can not register for the next course in the sequence until successful completion of the “current” course’s milestone(s). (587 approval only comes after you have finished 586.)
- Approval to register for EPOL 595 or 599 are made on a case-by-case basis
- EPOL 595 can be a single term or full semester and 599 is full-semester, so you’ll need to follow the deadlines
- Similar to the other EDS courses, EPOL 595 and 599 require approval before you can register. Registration instructions are sent once the proper process has been followed:
 - EPOL 586, 587, and 591: Seminar Request Form
 - EPOL 595: First discuss with Dr. Francis, then fill out the Independent Study Learning Contract
 - EPOL 599: First discuss with Dr. Francis, then she will request EPOL 599 for you
- Summer registration doesn’t contribute to Fall/Spring status or financial aid status, so unless you have a specific reason to be registered, it is suggested to wait until the Fall. *But if you have your prelim or final defense in the summer, you must be registered during the summer for at least 1 credit.*
- You don’t have to be currently registered/enrolled for a specific course/milestone in order to actively make progress on its requirements. The registration piece is to help you earn credit – but the exact registration timing is flexible – *except for having to be registered for something during prelim and final defense semesters.*
- You do not receive a grade for EPOL 599 until you graduate. It will appear as “deferred” until you graduate.

Registering for Variable Credit of EPOL 595 or 599

EPOL 595 is considered Independent Study credit. EPOL 599 is considered thesis credit. For the EdD, we allow EPOL 595 (up to 12 credits) and 599 (up to 8 credits) to count towards the 64 credits. These credits can be distributed across multiple semesters. Registering for one or maybe two credits at a time may be helpful for certain situations.

- **What does this mean?** On a case-by-case basis you may be approved to enroll in 1 or more credits of EPOL 595 or 599 to assist with your active status during the exam-dissertation sequence (note that enrollment in 0 credits of 599 still charges you the same rate as 1 credit for online students)
- **Who does this apply to?** Those who are actively working on their dissertation and are catching up on an incomplete from 586, 587, etc. or want to work ahead before formally registering for 586, 587, etc., or are in the data collection or final dissertation stage who don’t have another course approved for registration.
- **Will I be paying for more credits than I need?** You need 64 credits to graduate, so these 595 or 599 credits would go towards that. You are not expected to complete more than 64 credits.
- **I thought I needed 8 credits of EPOL 599, does this mean I will end up taking more than the 8 credits?** For EdD students, the 8 credits of 599 are simply placeholders for working on your dissertation and are flexible. They can be distributed across as many semesters as necessary and you don’t need all 8, as long as you have 64 credits in the end.
- **Why are you offering this?** When you aren’t registered, you fall off certain email lists, you aren’t counted as officially being in our program (by the University and College), and after a semester or two of lapse in enrollment, you may lose access to your netID (email, library, etc.), and eventually may need to petition for re-entry. By registering for something, it tells everyone that “hey, I’m still here and working on something.” *Also, you must be registered for something during the semester that you have your prelim and the semester of your final defense.* For some students in the past, they arrived at the end with 64 credits, but still hadn’t defended their thesis, so they had to pay for more credits in order to be enrolled. By spreading out 595 and 599 credits, you stay actively enrolled and reduce the risk of paying for more credits than you need.