Spalding University’s Ed. D.: Leadership Program offers an interdisciplinary, practical doctoral degree that prepares organizational leaders in a variety of fields with the knowledge and skills to advance for-profit and not-for-profit organizations with rigorous cutting-edge research and collaborative study to impact the world of policy and evidence-based practice. The program’s integrated and flexible format for instruction promotes best practices in business, social services, the arts and higher education for advanced-degree students. It offers applicable, dynamic learning to transform participants into mindful, ethical leaders who are exemplary practitioners of organizational research, extraordinary team builders and drivers of change and innovation.

This 60-credit-hour, fully accredited program of full-time study culminates in a terminal degree. Students take ten 6-credit-hour hybrid courses and complete a capstone project focused on creating and executing an original leadership study based on the knowledge and skills they have gained in their doctoral coursework and designed to complement Spalding University’s mission to “meet the needs of the times” by contributing to contemporary leadership scholarship. The program is intended to be completed in 2 1/2 years without career interruption. Participants take two courses, consecutively, during each fall and spring semester.

Apply on-line now at www.spalding.edu.
Spalding’s Ed.D.: Leadership Program:

- Encourages students to cultivate personal excellence: Participants nurture their aspirations and untapped potential at an institution that has an outstanding reputation for academic excellence, personalized education and community and professional service.
- Offers an accelerated course delivery model that combines the convenience of on-line learning with 22 hours of face-to-face learning for cohort members in each class. Participants begin each class with a 2½-day weekend, on-campus, immersion learning experience in which instructors, guest speakers and organizational partners initiate conversations for future reflections and discussions.
- Offers a cutting-edge curriculum: Participants engage in study that is of practical and immediate relevance as they engage in courses led by doctorally prepared instructors who are also practicing organizational leaders and as they research and analyze a contemporary leadership issue for their capstone project and write an article for a peer-reviewed journal based on that project.
- Complements instruction with renowned guest speakers: Participants engage with organizational leaders who offer real-world learning opportunities.
- Mission-driven: Participants engage with a program that is rooted in Spalding University’s core mission of inspiring a diverse community of learners to meet the needs of the times through championing quality learning, diversity and ethical leadership.

Program Requirements
A master’s or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a GPA of 3.0 or higher is a prerequisite for admission. Standardized test scores from graduate school entrance exams are not required for admission. However, TOEFL scores are required for those for whom English is a second language. Additional admission requirements include:

- Completion of a Spalding University application and payment of a $30.00 non-refundable application fee
- Submission of official transcripts from all previously attended institutions of higher education
- An in-person interview with the director of the doctoral program in leadership and leadership program faculty, and an on-the-spot critique of a journal article
- A current resume or CV
- A double-spaced essay of no more than five pages, but no less than three pages, that provides a personal definition of exemplary behaviors of a leader. In addition, the candidate will state the rationale and purpose for pursuing this degree and will describe his or her long-term professional goals using examples of personal leadership in his or her workplace and community.

If the candidate is currently enrolled in a master’s degree program, she or he may still apply with the understanding that no doctoral class may be taken until the master’s degree is officially completed. Applications are reviewed to take into account the candidate’s skills and attributes to identify individuals who show potential for leadership in this program, as well as potential for organizational success.

“The interdisciplinary nature of the doctoral leadership program coupled with its practical, engaging design permits a wide range of professionals in a variety of fields to identify, enhance and promote their leadership expertise.”

Dr. Linda Elisabeth LaPinta, Director
Spalding University Ed. D.: Leadership Program
Value-Added Opportunities and Scholarships

• The first three current or former participants or members of Leadership Kentucky, Leadership Louisville, and the Young Professionals Association of Louisville (YPAL) accepted into Spalding University’s Ed. D.: Leadership Program will be granted a 50% tuition reduction for the full 60-credit-hour program, a scholarship valued at approximately $25,000.

• Students enrolled in Spalding’s Ed. D.: Leadership Program have the option of earning a non-credit-bearing Certificate in Global Leadership starting in the summer between their first and second year in the program. This opportunity includes participating in two, tuition-free, day-long colloquia focused on critical global leadership issues about which leaders of all organizations need to know and participating in the graduate-level case competition at the International Leadership Association (ILA) Conference (located in a large city in the United States and in a major metropolitan area abroad in alternate years) the following fall. Spalding University covers the cost of each student’s conference registration, transportation to and from the conference, lodging, and meals; this value-added opportunity constitutes a scholarship of approximately $10,000 per student.

• On three, two-hour occasions annually, Spalding’s Ed. D.: Leadership Program presents on the Spalding University campus the Abramson Leadership Exchange, co-sponsored by Ignite Louisville alumni and the Young Professionals Association of Louisville (YPAL). This engaging series facilitated by Spalding’s Executive-in-Residence, eight-term former Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, who also served as Kentucky’s Lieutenant Governor and as Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama and White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, calls upon local, regional, and national leaders in a variety of fields to discuss the politics and practical applications of their famous and, occasionally, infamous leadership decisions. These free sessions, available to students and the public by reservation on a first-to-respond basis, complement students’ classroom learning.

• Current or former participants or members of Leadership Kentucky, Leadership Louisville, and the Young Professionals Association of Louisville (YPAL) who enroll in Spalding University’s Master of Arts in Writing (MAW) Program or Master of Science in Business Communication (MSBC) Program and who graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher are automatically accepted into Spalding University’s Ed. D.: Leadership Program, thereby gaining admission assurance to Spalding’s doctoral program in leadership.