

# INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## Online Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) Program Handbook 2025-2026

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[College of Education Home Page](#)  
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This Handbook is designed to provide doctoral students with specific information about the Educational Instructional Technology (EDIT) Program in the department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education at Texas Tech University. This Handbook is intended to serve as a supplement to, not a substitute for, the Texas Tech University Graduate Catalog. Since graduate procedures, graduate course requirements, and prerequisites may change, students are strongly encouraged to be familiar with the latest copy of the Graduate Catalog and meet with their Instructional Technology Faculty Advisor each semester.

Although this Handbook provides an overview of the policies, procedures, and requirements of the Instructional Technology program, the Handbook cannot be viewed as having all the answers. Instead, students must seek answers to questions from other sources including, but not limited to, the Instructional Technology program faculty, the College of Education Office of Graduate Education and Research, and the Texas Tech University Graduate School. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in reporting courses, policies, and other statements within this publication, the University reserves the right to make changes at any time without notice. Therefore, students are subject to all degree regulations as outlined in the Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog. The primary responsibility for reading and following correct policies and procedures remains with the students, not the faculty.

## Program Overview

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The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) is a professional degree designed to emphasize preparation for the highest levels of educational practice. The emphasis is on preparing Instructional Technology professionals for leadership roles as public school and college level educators and for training positions in corporate settings. The program includes a solid foundation in research, curriculum, and teaching skills with an emphasis in instructional design, and educational technology.

### Model

It is expected that all students graduating from the Instructional Technology program at Texas Tech will become critical users of the new instructional technologies through a process of reflective analysis. This process includes, but is not restricted to, such practices as:

- guided research,
- synthesis of the research literature,
- group discussions,
- authentic projects,
- student collaborations, and
- emerging technologies.

### Program Goals

The overall goals and objectives of the Instructional Technology Program at Texas Tech University embrace the definition of educational technology endorsed by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT).

*Educational technology is the study and ethical application of theory, research, and best practices to advance knowledge as well as mediate and improve learning and performance through the strategic design, management, and implementation of learning and instructional processes and resources.*

The goals for students in EDIT revolve around the following six broad areas of Instructional Technology.

- Theories and models of instructional design;
- Development of instructional materials through a variety of technologies based on theories and models of instructional design;
- Utilization of processes and resources to promote learning;
- Management of technologies, resources, and development for instructional purposes;
- Evaluation of programs, projects, and materials; and
- Critical analysis of research, trends, and issues related to the field of instructional technology.

While defined as six separate goals, these categories do not exist in isolation. A student taking a course with a heavy focus on any one goal would also be exploring and utilizing knowledge and skills related to the other five categories.

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# Doctoral Admissions and Advisement Procedures

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## Application Process

A master's degree from an accredited university program is required to apply for this doctoral degree program. This online Ed.D. program follows a cohort system, with a new cohort starting every other fall semester. Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the application process in advance of the semester they plan to start. Texas Tech University online application system is designed to help you easily navigate through the application process and ensure you complete your application in a timely manner.

Students can apply for the Doctoral Degree in Instructional Technology by filling out the [online application](#) through the Graduate School.

You must submit the following materials:

- a) **Online Application Form**
- b) **Graduate Record Examination (GRE):** The GRE test score requirement is currently optional for all graduate programs. As policies may change, please refer to the [Graduate School website](#) for the most up-to-date information on GRE requirements
- c) **Proof of English Proficiency:** International Applicants Only
- d) **Transcripts:** Official/Unofficial Transcripts of all post-secondary institutions attended (official transcripts will be required after admission)
- e) **Resume/CV:** An up-to-date professional resume or curriculum vitae
- f) **Letters of Recommendation:** Three letters of recommendation from individuals with knowledge of the applicant's potential for success in a doctoral degree program.
- g) **Personal Statement:** Applicants are required to submit a 1-2 page personal statement. To determine the potential match between the Instructional Technology program and the applicant's professional goals, the program faculty need to know about each applicant's background, motivation, and rationale for seeking a doctoral degree in instructional technology. The personal statement should reflect the applicant's personal beliefs, values, and philosophy. The applicant's personal statement should include the following:
  - Overview of personal background and experience
  - Reasons for selecting instructional technology as an area of study
  - Self-assessment of personal strengths and weaknesses as they relate to graduate study in Instructional Technology
  - Statement of professional goals
  - Research experiences and interests
  - Other items applicant feels are pertinent for evaluation of program application
- h) **Samples of Scholarly Writing:** Applicants are required to submit samples of scholarly writing: previously completed work (e.g., a journal article, term paper, or report).
  - Prepared sample of professional work: Applicants are required to submit a written paper or article that is representative of his/her writing ability. This may be a research paper, curriculum document, or any other work that the applicant feels best represents his/her writing ability.

- i) **Supplemental Materials/Interview:** Applicants could be contacted by the online Ed.D. coordinator to provide additional materials for application review. Online interview could be scheduled, but it is not required.

## **Admission Decision**

The application materials will be reviewed by the Instructional Technology program faculty by March for the next academic year. Admission to the program is granted based on a holistic evaluation rather than on set test scores and grades. The recommendation will be submitted to the Graduate School regarding the admission of the applicant to the Instructional Technology doctoral program. The official letter of acceptance or rejection will be sent by the Office of Graduate Admissions.

## **Financial Aid**

A limited number of College of Education scholarships are available on a competitive basis. For financial aid information, contact the College of Education Office of Graduate Education and Research or visit the [funding for graduate students website](#).

## **Advisement Procedures**

All new doctoral students will be assigned to a temporary academic advisor. The academic advisor request form will be provided at the new online Ed.D. student orientation meeting. Students will have the opportunity to check each faculty member's expertise and submit their preferences to match their research interests. The purpose of the major advisor is to help students meet the program requirements and guide their progression through the program.

[Degree Works](#) is a web-based academic advising and degree audit system. This system is the primary advisement tool. Students and his/her major advisor will check coursework progress with this system. Students need to file a degree change plan, request transfer credit form, and/or other forms with a major advisor's approval.

When you have completed the majority of your coursework, you should finalize your doctoral advisory committee, which consists of at least three faculty members. The doctoral advisory committee will guide you through your qualifying exam, approval of your dissertation research proposal, and the writing of the dissertation. The chair of this committee may be the advisor you have been working with or may be another EDIT faculty member. At least one additional committee member must be selected from the EDIT faculty. Other committee members may be selected from graduate faculty in other programs, departments, or colleges at TTU.

## **Transfer Credit**

Since this doctoral degree requires a master's degree, a total of 30 credit hours may be transferred. However, students could be advised to take additional courses by her/his academic advisor if the

previous graduate degree is not closely related to instructional technology or education field. Here are the detailed guidelines from graduate school. Students should discuss more details with their academic advisor.

- Transfer credit for work completed in a graduate program at another recognized graduate school will be considered upon the recommendation of the student's doctoral advisory committee. While such work may be accepted, there is no automatic assurance that it will reduce the course or residence requirements at Texas Tech University.
- Previously Awarded Master's Degrees: Upon approval by the Graduate Dean, up to 30 block semester credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree may be counted towards a doctoral program. If this option is approved, no other transfer credit will be allowed.
- Grade Requirements: Only work completed at another graduate school with a grade of B or higher will be considered for transfer. Courses with grades of pass/fail or satisfactory will not be accepted.
- GPA Impact: Transfer credit will not alter the grade point average at Texas Tech University.
- Time Limit: Credit ordinarily will not be given for transfer work completed more than eight years prior to admission to a doctoral program at Texas Tech University, without an exception granted by the Graduate Dean.

Information concerning transfer of coursework policy is available in the [TTU graduate catalog](#).

### **Continuation of Enrollment**

Students who have been granted admission are expected to register in the semester for which admission is granted. Failure to register in the term for which admission is granted requires the student to reapply for admission. Any student who fails to satisfy a continuous enrollment requirement and who does not have an official leave of absence from the study granted by the Instructional Technology Program and the Graduate School will be required to apply for re-admission to the program according to the procedures and standards in effect at the time of reconsideration.

## Program of Studies

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The Education Doctorate in Instructional Technology (Ed.D.) consists of 63 hours of doctoral coursework, in addition to up to 30 credit hours that may be transferred from a master's degree earned at an accredited university, with approval from the academic advisor.

This online Ed.D. program follows a cohort model, and students are required to complete the prescribed four-year course sequence. If a student needs to adjust the sequence, they should consult their academic advisor to review their progress and obtain approval.

NOTE: Failure to register for a semester or to complete required courses on time may result in removal from the program and the closure of the cohort.

Students are strongly encouraged to present their research at a national or international conference during their third or fourth year.

### Year 1 (18 total hours)

#### Fall (6 hours)

- EDIT 5317 Instructional Design Foundations
- EPSY 6379 Foundations of Educational Research

#### Spring (6 hours)

- EDIT 6310 Research Seminar in Instructional Technology (Sequence 1: Introduction to Research in Instructional Technology)
- EDIT 5326 Instructional Systems Evaluation

#### Summer (6 hours)

- EDIT 5342 Online Teaching and Learning Technologies
- EDIT 5370 Foundations of Distance Education

### Year 2 (18 total hours)

#### Fall (6 hours)

- EDIT 6325 Multimedia Production for Instruction or EDIT 6317 Advanced Instructional Design Theories
- EPSY 5380 Introduction to Educational Statistics or EPSY 5381 Intermediate Educational Statistics

#### Spring (6 hours)

- EDIT 6380 Topical Inquiry Seminar or EDIT 6322 Research in Instructional Technology
- EDCI 6381 Constructivist Inquiry Methodologies in Curriculum and Instruction or EDCI 6382 Advanced Field Methods in Constructivist Inquiry

#### Summer (6 hours)



- EDIT 5380 Online Course Management and Facilitation or EDIT 5321 Interactive Instructional Multimedia Development
- EDIT 6310 Research Seminar in Instructional Technology (Sequence 2: Contemporary Research Trends and Methods)

#### Year 3 (15 total hours)

##### Fall (6 hours)

- EDIT 6317 Advanced Instructional Design Theories or EDIT 6325 Multimedia Production for Instruction
- EDIT 5390 Online Distance Learning

##### Spring (6 hours)

- EDIT 6322 Research in Instructional Technology or EDIT 6380 Topical Inquiry Seminar
- EDIT 5395 Administration of the Instructional Technology Program

##### Summer (6 hours)

- EDIT 6310 Research Seminar in Instructional Technology (Sequence 3: Doctoral Core Competencies for Qualifying Exam)
- Qualifying Examination

#### Year 4 (12 total hours)

##### Fall (6 hours)

- EDIT 8000 Dissertation (6 hours)

##### Spring (3 hours)

- EDIT 8000 Dissertation (6 hours)

**Total Credit Hours:** 63 credit hours

#### **Graduate Credit Hour Registration Limit**

The Graduate School enforces a 99-credit-hour maximum for all doctoral students. Once a student exceeds 99 credit hours, they must submit a degree completion timeline and provide a written explanation for the delay in order to remain eligible for course enrollment.

## Qualifying Examination

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Each candidate for the Ed.D. in Instructional Technology at Texas Tech must complete a Qualifying Examination. A student is eligible to stand for this examination after receiving approval of their doctoral degree plan from the Dean of the Graduate School and completing the majority of the coursework prescribed in the approved plan. The examination is normally taken during or shortly after the final semester in which coursework is completed. Students must finalize their doctoral advisory committee and chair before scheduling the exam. The examination requires the synthesis and application of knowledge acquired throughout the doctoral course of study. Consequently, satisfactory performance in course work does not necessarily guarantee successful performance on the Qualifying Examination. Successful completion of the Qualifying Examination is required before a doctoral research proposal or an application for admission to candidacy for the doctor's degree can be filed. Students must be admitted to candidacy for the doctorate at least four months prior to the proposed graduation date.

The student should schedule the examination with his or her major advisor. The doctoral advisory committee will compile and evaluate the examination. It is recommended that the student consults with all committee members as part of their preparation for taking the exams and obtains study suggestions. Students will complete a take-home written exam usually consisting of 4-6 questions provided by the committee and covering the coursework, research, and areas of emphasis. There is a **15-day time restriction** on completing the take-home exam.

The examination will cover instructional technology research, theory, and practice across the six goal areas of design, development, utilization, management, evaluation, and research. This exam requires a comprehensive understanding of a broad range of technologies (e.g., online learning, emerging technologies, etc.). At the doctoral level, research is emphasized; therefore, students are expected to demonstrate familiarity with research methodologies and awareness of current scholarship in the field. An in-depth understanding of instructional design theory and its applications is also expected. Clarity and precision of written expression will be considered in evaluating the examination. The exam will be tailored to each student's doctoral research interests, areas of emphasis, and professional goals.

Suggested areas of study include, but are not limited to:

- Instructional Design
- Trends and Issues in Instructional Technology
- Distance Education
- Research in Instructional Technology
- Applications for Technology in Education
- Management of Instructional Technology Programs
- Educational Research and Statistics

Following the administration of the examination, copies will be distributed to all members of the doctoral advisory committee for grading. This process typically takes three to four weeks. Each question will be evaluated individually by the members of the student's doctoral advisory committee. Each committee member will rate the examination as either Pass or Fail, and the

results will be submitted to the committee chair, who will then report the outcome to the Graduate School. The committee chair may confer with members individually or convene a meeting if appropriate. At the request of any committee member, the chair may also schedule an oral examination to supplement specific portions of the written exam, allowing the student an opportunity to clarify their responses.

The examination must receive a favorable recommendation from a majority of the committee members for the student to pass. After evaluation, the major advisor will submit a recommendation for admission to candidacy to the Dean of the Graduate School. The Dean will forward the advisory committee's recommendation to the Graduate Council for review. The Council may approve the recommendation or require additional conditions that the student must fulfill. Decisions made by the Graduate Council will be communicated in writing by the Dean of the Graduate School to the student, the chair of the doctoral advisory committee, and the Division Chair.

If the examination is not passed, the committee chair will notify the Graduate Dean in writing. The qualifying examination may be repeated once, following a minimum lapse of four months. If a student must repeat the examination, it is recommended that they enroll in an independent study course (e.g., EDIT 7000) under the supervision of the major advisor to engage in directed study in preparation for the retake. Failure to pass the qualifying examination after the second attempt will result in dismissal from the doctoral program.

## **Dissertation**

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Once the student has been admitted to candidacy, they are ready to make the dissertation proposal. In the proposal, the student will define the problem question, analyze where the problem fits in the extant literature and the type of methodology that the student will use to investigate the answer to the question. Normally the proposal will form the first three chapters of the dissertation. At this time, the student should work closely with the chair in designing the research proposal. Given the nature of doctoral work, the chair may solicit the help of one or more of the members of the committee. Once the student and the chair agree that the proposal is ready, the proposal date is set. Two weeks prior to the proposal date, it is the student's responsibility to provide an abstract to the Office of Graduate Education and Research in the College of Education so that it can be posted to the faculty. Secondly, it is the responsibility of the student to provide a bound copy of the proposal to each of the members of the committee. At this time, the student should reserve a room in the college for the proposal meeting.

On the day of the proposal, the student is responsible for any of the display equipment. The chair will introduce the student and the members of the committee. The chair will also go over the ground rules, which state that the student will have 15-20 minutes to present the proposal at which time the committee will have the opportunity to ask questions. When the committee is finished, the chair will ask the audience if there are any questions. Once the audience is finished, the chair will ask the audience to leave. The committee will now engage the student in a dialogue about the proposal. When the committee is finished, they will ask the student to leave. At this time, they will decide to accept the proposal, accept the proposal with revisions, or reject the proposal. Normally

the committee accepts the proposal with revisions that once completed the student is free to begin collecting data. The first responsibility upon acceptance is for the student to submit a copy of the proposal to the Graduate Dean for Research in the College of Education. Secondly, the student is responsible for completing the Human Subjects requirement.

Once the student has successfully defended their proposal, they are free to do the study after receiving approval from the Texas Tech University Institutional Human Research Protection Program (HRPP). It is important for the student to be in communication with the chair. If problems or unforeseen events occur, the student must inform the chair so that the situation can be worked out. Upon completion of the dissertation study and the student and the chair should agree that the dissertation is ready for an oral defense. The Dissertation defense is similar to the Proposal defense. However, the student must contact the Graduate School and fill out the intent to graduate and all of the required forms. In addition, the student has the option of recommending an outside representative of the Graduate School. The chair may know someone who may have an interest in the topic or methodology. If no recommendation is forthcoming, the Graduate School will secure a suitable representative. The student is required to have an approved title page prior to the dissertation defense. Contact the Graduate School for details. Typically, at this stage, if the student has been in close consultation with the chair, the defense should go smoothly. Normally, there will be revisions and corrections on the document. The revisions will have to be completed prior to all of the members signing the title page. Once the title page has been signed, you will need to contact the Graduate School Editor to make sure the dissertation conforms to university guidelines.

### **Statement of Intention to Graduate**

All doctoral degree students must file a Statement of Intention to Graduate and pay graduation fees. Since specific deadlines exist for filing forms and paying fees, students should visit the Graduate School website at

[http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/academic/Doctoral\\_Students.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/academic/Doctoral_Students.php)

## **Probation, Suspension and Dismissal**

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The Graduate School Catalog specifies the circumstances under which students may be placed on probation, suspension, or dismissal. Additionally, the Instructional Technology Program Faculty may recommend probate, suspend, or dismiss from the program. Students who do not meet the program's academic requirements, make satisfactory progress over time toward completion of the EDIT degree, who exhibit behavior unbefitting a scholar, researcher, or IT professional. Accordingly, the instructional technology faculty, in program meetings, will discuss student progress concerning academic performance as exhibited in classes, on examinations, and during dissertation meetings.

### **Immediate Dismissal**

Success in the instructional technology program consists of more than grades. Work habits and attitudes play a major role. Any of the following actions are considered as just cause for immediate dismissal from the Instructional Technology Program:

- Dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.).
- Negligence or misconduct.
- Receipt of a Fail grade in Practicum or Internship.
- Willful submission of false information or alteration of any official records, counseling reports, papers, examinations, or dissertations.
- Willful conduct that may cause injury to self or others.

## **Performance Evaluation**

All students enrolled in the Instructional Technology Program are expected to achieve and maintain a high level of academic performance. Students are responsible for making academic progress toward their degree and will be reviewed on an annual basis by their doctoral advisory committee chair. The following guidelines are presented to help students avoid problems related to academic progress.

## **Grades**

Grades used in Graduate School are the same as those used in undergraduate work (A, B, C, D, and F), but grades of "D" and "F" will not be accepted on a graduate student's program of study. Grades of "D" and "F" are used, however, in computing grade-point averages. There is no grade replacement for graduate courses and all classes taken in graduate school count toward your cumulative GPA. If a student's graduate GPA for a particular semester falls below 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation. Students are encouraged to visit with their major advisor at this time to develop a plan of study to correct this deficiency. A student must make a 3.0 or better in the next semester in which he or she is enrolled. Failure to do so, or to maintain a 3.0 current GPA in each succeeding semester, will result in academic suspension from further enrollment as a graduate student or in graduate courses at Texas Tech University and result in dismissal from the Instructional Technology Program.

## **Enrollment and Satisfactory Progress**

Students are required to register for coursework during the semester for which admission to the Graduate School is granted. After being admitted into the Instructional Technology program, students must enroll in courses every semester until they complete their degree unless the Dean of the Graduate School grants an official leave of absence. Students conducting dissertation research must register for EDIT 8000 in each regular semester and at least once each summer until all degree requirements have been completed. Failure to maintain continuous enrollment requires the student to reapply for admission to both the Graduate School and the Instructional Technology Program.

Doctoral students are required to demonstrate that they are making satisfactory progress toward their degree. Doctoral students must complete their degrees in eight years. Incompletes should be completed by the end of the following semester. Completion of qualifying examination, proposal

defense, and data collection are evidence of making satisfactory progress. The student's doctoral advisory committee chair will conduct an annual review to discuss satisfactory progress. In instances where aspects of progress are deemed unsatisfactory, the chair will meet with the student and outline the specific concern(s). During this meeting, a plan will be developed to correct and/or remediate the concern(s). Follow-up meetings will be conducted with the student to be sure the plan is being followed and has been successfully completed. In cases where the action plan has failed in correcting the concern(s), the chair will bring the concerns before the other Instructional Technology faculty. At this time, the faculty may decide to continue remediation, put the student on probation, or recommend dismissal from the Instructional Technology Program. Students disagreeing with the decision may appeal the decision by following the Student Appeals/Grievance Procedures.

### **Additional Information & Suggestions**

Other important issues such as registration, financial assistance, ethics, and appeals procedures are outlined in the Texas Tech University [Graduate Catalog](#).