

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

Sul Ross State University | Fall 2026 Inaugural Cohort

A practice-embedded doctoral program designed for educational leaders in rural, borderland, and linguistically diverse communities

Program Overview

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership is a **three-year, cohort-based program** grounded in improvement science methodology. Doctoral students conduct sustained improvement inquiry within their own organizational contexts, designing and testing change initiatives that address real Problems of Practice. The dissertation-in-practice is embedded in the coursework.

- **Cohort Size:** 15 students (personalized mentorship and faculty engagement)
- **Start Date:** Fall 2026
- **Tuition:** \$24,130 (total tuition cost)
- **Focus:** Rural and borderland educational leadership

Who Should Apply?

We seek educational leaders who demonstrate:

- **Leadership experience** with authority to lead organizational change
- **Academic readiness** for doctoral-level scholarly inquiry
- **Organizational context** that supports sustained improvement work over three years
- **Alignment** with serving rural, borderland, and linguistically diverse communities

Eligibility Requirements

- **Master's degree** from a regionally accredited institution (minimum 3.0 GPA)
- **Three years** of leadership experience in P–12, higher education, or related settings
- **Texas Principal or Principal as Instructional Leader Certificate** (or equivalent)
- **Organizational role** with access to data and authority to implement change initiatives
- **Employment stability** during the three-year program is strongly encouraged

Application Portfolio

Required Materials:

1. **Letter of Introduction/Statement of Purpose** (3–5 pages)
Articulate your Problem of Practice, leadership experience, and alignment with improvement science
2. **Video Presentation** (5–7 minutes)
Discuss your professional background, Problem of Practice, and motivation for doctoral study
3. **Two Letters of Recommendation**
At least one from a supervisor attesting to leadership ability and readiness for doctoral work
4. **Professional Résumé/CV**
5. **Official Transcripts** from all institutions

Recommended:

- **Organizational Endorsement** confirming access to data and support for improvement work

Optional:

- **Evidence of Impact** (reports, projects, or data analyses demonstrating leadership influence)

Application Timeline

Milestone	Date
Application Opens	OPEN NOW
Priority Deadline	April 15, 2026
Interviews (if necessary)	May–June 2026
Final Decisions Announced	June 2026
Cohort Orientation	August 2026
Courses Begin	Fall 2026

How to Apply

Applications are initiated through **ApplyTexas** (soon).

Questions? Contact Dr. John Decman, Ed.D. Program Director

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Sul Ross State University is committed to serving educational leaders across rural, borderland, and linguistically diverse communities. All applicants are reviewed holistically using identical admissions criteria.

