

Tuition & Program Cost

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

Sul Ross State University

Total Program Cost

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership is designed to be among the most accessible doctoral programs of its kind in Texas and the region.

Total Program Tuition: \$24,130

This covers all 60 credit hours required for degree completion across three years (nine semesters).

Cost per Credit Hour: \$402.17

Sul Ross State University is committed to providing high-quality doctoral education at a cost that removes financial barriers for talented leaders serving rural, borderland, and underserved communities.

The Ed.D. program operates under a special tuition rate established through the program's implementation agreement with the Texas State University System.

Semester-by-Semester Cost Breakdown

The program consists of nine semesters with varying credit loads. Below is the anticipated tuition cost for each semester:

| Semester | Credit Hours | Tuition Cost |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Semester 1 (Year 1, Fall) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| Semester 2 (Year 1, Spring) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| Semester 3 (Year 1, Summer) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| Semester 4 (Year 2, Fall) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| Semester 5 (Year 2, Spring) | 9 credits | \$3,620 |
| Semester 6 (Year 2, Summer) | 9 credits | \$3,620 |
| Semester 7 (Year 3, Fall) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Semester 8 (Year 3, Spring) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| Semester 9 (Year 3, Summer) | 6 credits | \$2,413 |
| TOTAL | 60 credits | \$24,130 |

Note: Tuition rates are subject to change by the Texas State University System Board of Regents. Students will be notified of any tuition adjustments.

Payment Structure

Semester Billing

Tuition is billed each semester. Students pay for the credits they're taking that term before the semester begins. This structure allows you to spread the cost across nine semesters rather than requiring large upfront payments.

Payment Deadlines

Payment is due prior to the start of each semester according to the Sul Ross State University academic calendar. Specific payment deadlines will be communicated by the Bursar's Office.

Payment Methods

Sul Ross accepts payment via:

- Online payment through the student portal
- Check or money order
- Wire transfer
- Credit/debit card (processing fees may apply)

Payment Plans

Sul Ross State University offers payment plan options that allow students to divide semester costs into smaller monthly installments. Details about payment plan enrollment, fees, and schedules are available through the Cashier's Office.

Additional Costs

Beyond tuition, students should budget for:

Books and Course Materials (\$500-800 per year)

Required textbooks, improvement science resources, and research methodology texts. Many readings are provided electronically at no additional cost, but students will need to purchase some books. We expect that we have exaggerated this amount.

Technology (\$0-500 one-time)

If you don't already have them:

- Reliable computer with webcam and microphone
- Headset for synchronous sessions
- Adequate internet connectivity

Most students already possess these for their professional work.

Dissertation Costs (\$200-500)

- Data collection tools or instruments
- Printing and binding of final dissertation
- Professional editing or formatting assistance (optional)

Professional Development (Optional)

- Conference registration fees if presenting your work
- Professional association memberships (ICPEL, etc.)

These costs are optional but can enhance your professional growth.

Total Estimated Additional Costs: \$1,500-2,500 over three years

Most additional costs are spread across the program duration and many are tax-deductible professional development expenses.

Financial Aid

Federal Financial Aid

Ed.D. students are eligible for federal financial aid including:

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans:

- Graduate students may borrow up to \$20,500 per academic year
- Interest accrues during enrollment but payment can be deferred until after graduation
- Fixed interest rates set annually by the federal government

Federal Direct PLUS Loans (Grad PLUS):

- Graduate students may borrow up to the full cost of attendance minus other financial aid
- Credit check required
- Higher interest rate than Direct Unsubsidized Loans

How to Apply for Financial Aid

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at studentaid.gov
2. List Sul Ross State University (Federal School Code: 003625)
3. Submit FAFSA annually by priority deadlines
4. Review your financial aid award letter from Sul Ross
5. Accept, reduce, or decline offered aid

Financial Aid Deadlines

Priority FAFSA filing deadline: March 15 annually
Awards processed on rolling basis after priority deadline

Financial Aid Office Contact

Sul Ross State University Financial Aid Office
Email: finaid@sulross.edu
Phone: 432-837-8059

Employer Tuition Assistance

Many school districts, educational agencies, and organizations offer tuition reimbursement or assistance for employees pursuing doctoral degrees.

Common Employer Benefits

- **Tuition reimbursement programs:** Employers pay a portion or all of tuition costs, often requiring continued employment for a specified period

- **Professional development funds:** Districts may allocate annual funds for leadership development that can be applied to doctoral study
- **Salary increases:** Some districts provide salary increases for employees completing doctoral degrees
- **Schedule flexibility:** Employers may offer adjusted schedules or protected time for coursework

Questions to Ask Your Employer

- Does the district/organization offer tuition reimbursement for doctoral study?
- What is the maximum annual or total benefit?
- Are there service commitments or employment requirements?
- Can professional development funds be applied to tuition costs?
- Is there a process for requesting support for doctoral education?

Students are encouraged to explore employer support options early in the application process. Some employers require advance approval before beginning coursework.

Tax Benefits

Lifetime Learning Credit

Graduate students may qualify for the Lifetime Learning Credit, worth up to \$2,000 per year. This tax credit can be claimed for tuition and required fees.

Eligibility requirements:

- Modified adjusted gross income below specified thresholds
- Enrolled in eligible educational institution
- Taking courses to acquire or improve job skills

Tuition and Fees Deduction

Some students may qualify to deduct tuition and fees as a business expense if the education maintains or improves skills required in your current job.

Consult a Tax Professional

Tax benefits vary based on individual circumstances. Consult a qualified tax professional to determine which benefits you're eligible to claim.

Cost Comparison

Among the Most Accessible Doctoral Programs in Texas

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at Sul Ross is significantly more affordable than comparable programs:

Typical Ed.D. programs in Texas:

Range from \$35,000 to \$70,000+ in total tuition

Sul Ross Ed.D. in Educational Leadership:

\$24,130 total tuition

Savings compared to typical programs:

\$10,000 to \$45,000+

Value Beyond Cost

The Sul Ross Ed.D. offers exceptional value:

- Small cohort size (15 students) ensuring individualized attention
- Faculty with extensive experience in rural and borderland educational leadership
- CPED-aligned curriculum grounded in improvement science
- Fully online delivery eliminating relocation or commuting costs
- Employment-integrated design allowing full-time work during the program
- Degree from a regionally accredited Hispanic-Serving Institution with deep roots in West Texas

Financial Planning Strategies

Year 1: Lower Cost Semesters

Year 1 consists of three 6-credit semesters (\$2,413 each), making the initial financial commitment more manageable as you adjust to doctoral study.

Year 2: Highest Cost Year

Year 2 includes two 9-credit semesters (\$3,620 each) in Spring and Summer, making this the highest-cost year. Plan accordingly and explore employer reimbursement or increased financial aid borrowing.

Year 3: Reduced Course Load

Year 3 returns to 6-credit semesters (\$2,413 each) as you focus on dissertation implementation and completion.

Creating a Financial Plan

1. Calculate total program cost: \$24,130
2. Identify employer support: \$_____ per year
3. Determine financial aid borrowing: \$_____ per year
4. Calculate out-of-pocket costs: Tuition + additional costs - employer support - financial aid
5. Plan for semester-by-semester payments
6. Build in contingency for unexpected costs
7. Explore tax benefits to offset costs

Frequently Asked Questions About Cost

What if I can't afford a semester's tuition?

Contact the Financial Aid Office immediately to discuss federal loan options, payment plans, or other resources. Don't let financial concerns prevent you from enrolling.

Are there scholarships specifically for Ed.D. students?

Information about scholarships and funding opportunities specific to doctoral students will be provided to admitted students.

What if tuition increases during my time in the program?

Sul Ross State University strives to minimize tuition increases. Any changes are determined by the Texas State University System Board of Regents and would be communicated well in advance.

Can I take a semester off if I have financial difficulties?

The program requires continuous enrollment for cohort progression. However, students facing financial hardship should consult with the Program Director and Financial Aid Office to explore options before making decisions about enrollment.

Questions About Tuition and Financial Aid?

Financial Aid Office

Sul Ross State University Financial Aid Office

Email: finaid@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8059

Website: www.sulross.edu/financial-aid

Bursar's Office / Cashier's Office

Sul Ross State University Cashier's Office

Email: cashiers@sulross.edu

Phone: 432-837-8058

Website: www.sulross.edu/admissions/cashiers-office

Program Director

For questions about program costs in context of program value:

Dr. John Decman

Email: john.decman@sulross.edu

Program Email: educationdoctorate@sulross.edu

Your Investment in Leadership

At \$24,130 for a fully online, CPED-aligned doctoral program, the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership represents one of the most accessible pathways to advanced educational leadership preparation in Texas.

This investment prepares you to lead at the highest levels: as superintendent, college dean, executive director, or other senior leadership roles while developing the capacity to drive

meaningful, sustainable improvement in organizations and communities that need effective leadership.

The return on this investment extends far beyond salary increases or career advancement. It's measured in:

- Organizations improved through your leadership
- Students and communities better served
- Problems solved through disciplined inquiry
- Capacity built for continuous improvement
- Networks formed with fellow scholar-practitioners

We're committed to making doctoral education accessible to the leaders who need it most.

Sul Ross State University
The Frontier University of Texas