



## PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDELINES

Writing a personal statement is an essential part of the application process, providing you with an opportunity to articulate why you are an ideal candidate. The Ed.D. program is dedicated to fostering a close-knit and supportive learning environment by actively recruiting doctoral students to participate in small-size cohorts. This commitment makes the selection process competitive and underscores the importance of choosing applicants who stand out due to their distinctive qualities and their potential to contribute to the program and the academic field.

Compose a thoughtful Personal Statement (2-3 double-spaced pages) addressing the following criteria:

### 1. Introduction

- Briefly share your personal background, including key life experiences, values, and any influential factors that have shaped your journey.
- Provide an overview of your academic background, highlighting key milestones, achievements, and academic interests.
- Discuss your professional background, detailing relevant educational or leadership work experiences, responsibilities, and any notable accomplishments.
- How have your personal, academic, and professional backgrounds collectively influenced your decision to pursue a Doctor of Education program?

### 2. Critical Self-Reflection

- Reflect on a pivotal moment in your life where you accomplished something significant. Discuss the obstacles you encountered on your journey and elaborate on the strategies you employed to overcome those challenges.

### 3. Research Interest

If admitted to the program, you will begin dissertation work early on. While we understand that your research focus may shift, we encourage you to think about a potential topic that matches your academic and professional interests. You are not confined to this topic, but the closer you get to choosing a research area, the better prepared you will be to begin your doctoral research journey.

- Articulate the specific research topic you intend to pursue during your doctoral studies.
- Provide a concise description of the problem or issue that your research aims to address.
- Suggest a target population and propose the types of data you anticipate collecting to understand, analyze, and address the research problem.

### 4. Fit with the Program

- Explain why the Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Leadership Program at TLU is the right fit for your doctoral pursuits.
- Consider how your academic and personal goals align with TLU's core values of Education, Community, and Faith.