In the News:

Exciting things are happening in the College of Education and the Educational Leadership Department! The Educational Administration program recently accepted 62 new doctoral students into our program. While our program is generally limited to only 2 cohorts of 25 per year, our department was granted permission to accept a larger cohort based upon the number of high quality applicants this summer. Most of the applicants for the fall cohort scored at the highest levels of our applicant rubric. We would like to welcome the Fall 2014 cohort - we look forward to working with you. This cohort will meet for orientation in September.

Dr. Timothy Letzring has begun work as our new Dean. Dr. Letzring provided leadership in our field at Ole Miss for a number of years. He also brings experience as an attorney to the role. We welcome his leadership to our college. We have also added 3 new tenure track professors to our faculty in Ed Leadership. Dr. Melissa Arrambide, Dr. Nathan Templeton, and Dr. Warren Ortloff are all experienced school administrators and excellent researchers. These additional staff members will continue to strengthen our student support efforts in both teaching and dissertation advisement.

Stay abreast of department updates through this newsletter and our website. Please direct newsletter questions or comments to Dr. Chuck Holt at: chuck.holt@tamuc.edu

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Mark the Date! TCPEA

One of the important components of meeting residency requirements in our doctoral program is presenting at a research conference. The Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration (TCPEA) meeting offers just such an opportunity. This association sponsors a special presentation forum for doctoral students across the state called the Graduate Research Exchange (GRE). This nonthreatening and convenient opportunity allows students to present papers and research in a roundtable to one another with guidance from TCPEA professors. The GRE this year will be held at the Dallas Omni Hotel on September 26, 2014. The TCPEA meeting is held in conjunction with the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) convention and the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) meeting each fall. Attending these may serve to meet two of your conference requirements since all students are required to attend either a TCPEA or NCPEA conference. The TCPEA meeting begins at 9:00 am and the GRE is in the afternoon. More information about TCPEA is available on the organization website found below. Students will be able to submit proposals through an online portal. See GRE information on the TCPEA website at: http://www.tcpea.org/domain/187

WHAT IS A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE?
A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

One of the real milestones in your journey as a doctoral student is reaching candidacy. This term at our university designates a point at which a student has completed all core and research tools course work, passed the written and oral comprehensive exams, and completed all residency requirements. This is the point at which a student may begin taking the EDAD 718 classes titled “Dissertation Writing”. It may not mean that a student has finished all classes, however. Many students may be taking electives and/or superintendent certification classes while in the candidacy stage. You will be assigned a dissertation chair once you reach this milestone.

Remember your curriculum advisor is assigned as you enter the program. This professor serves to help you with your degree plan, approve your residency plan and answer program questions in the initial stage of your journey. This advisor will also administer your Comprehensive Exams. On the other hand, your dissertation chair will likely be a professor that shares an interest in your research topic or your methodology. More about this topic is found in your Doctoral Handbook also found at the Department Website.
How Long Does It Take to Complete a Degree?

Some students worry about completing a degree “on time”. The dissertation phase is different for all students. Remember that each of the steps in the process is designed to be integral to the doctoral experience. No specific part is more important than another. Completing processes (such as paperwork documenting your progress) and product (actual chapters in the dissertation) are each as important as another and will be different for every candidate. Simply put, your dissertation is not complete until your committee and the graduate school can attest that you have successfully completed a rigorous research project that the University can be proud to publish. Your dissertation chair can help facilitate in this endeavor but the responsibility for knowing, understanding, and completing all steps in the degree has been purposefully designed to rest squarely with the student.

Residency Requirement Reminders:

The doctoral residency requirement is designed to promote meaningful and continuous study in the field of scholarship, to provide for a diversity of experiences supporting intellectual growth and professional development, and to promote regular interaction between the student and faculty members. As you progress through your program remember to plan your residency early with your curriculum advisor. Residency has three components: consecutive enrollment, a research strand, and a professional development strand. For details about residency and forms, see the appropriate Doctoral Handbook for your cohort found on the Department Website. Questions about your residency plan should be directed to your curriculum advisor. Our website will also provide a list of approved national, regional and state conferences for your consideration. Also look for the required textbook list found on the website.