

EDAD 6350: Introduction to Education Research

Education Leadership Program

Department of Educator and Leadership Preparation

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Leaders depend upon strategic, systematic, and data-driven inquiries for organizational improvement and effective decision-making. The purpose of this course is to develop understandings of the principles of empirical research. Students will learn to ask thoughtfully designed questions of the extant literature base, synthesize empirical scholarship, and evaluate educational research.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLO)

The students in this class will be able to:

SLO 1. Identify the principles, structures, and basic design features of empirical research.

SLO 2. Differentiate between empirical and non-empirical research.

SLO 3. Evaluate the methodology of empirical research and merit for inclusion within a review of literature.

SLO 4. Craft effective research questions with which to approach the extant literature-base.

SLO 5. Synthesize theory and research to craft an effective literature review.

C. LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPICS

Introduction and course overview

Principles of empirical inquiry: paradigms, theories, and research

Differentiating between empirical and non-empirical research

Structuring inquiry: research design, conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement

Basics of educational research: modes of observation and analytical types

Evaluating educational research

Crafting research questions

Meaningful synthesis of current knowledge base

Writing effective literature reviews

D. REQUIRED READING(S)

Mertler, C. A. (2026). Introduction to educational research (4th ed.). SAGE.