

College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership
Comprehensive Exam Study Guide – 2025-2026
Edd Higher Education

Each essay response should be between 350-400 words in length and must incorporate relevant theories, concepts, and research findings. Use appropriate terminology, conceptual frameworks, and reference authorities in the field when necessary.

Area A: Foundations of Higher Education

1. Discuss the historical development of higher education in the United States and its impact on current practices and policies. (350-400 words)
2. Analyze the role of various stakeholders (e.g., students, faculty, administrators, and policymakers) in shaping the mission and purpose of higher education institutions. (350-400 words)
3. Examine the philosophical and theoretical foundations of higher education, and discuss their relevance to contemporary issues and challenges facing the field. (350-400 words)
4. Evaluate the impact of globalization and technological advancements on the future of higher education, and propose strategies for adapting to these changes. (350-400 words)

Area B: Organization and Administration

1. Compare and contrast the governance structures of public and private higher education institutions, and discuss the advantages and challenges of each model. (350-400 words)
2. Examine the role of strategic planning in higher education administration and its importance in achieving institutional goals and objectives. (350-400 words)
3. Analyze the importance of shared governance in higher education, and discuss strategies for promoting collaboration and communication among different stakeholder groups. (350-400 words)
4. Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with managing human resources in higher education, including faculty, staff, and administrators. (350-400 words)

Area C: Research

1. Discuss the importance of research in higher education and its impact on institutional decision-making, policy development, and student success. (350-400 words)
2. Evaluate the ethical considerations in conducting research in higher education, and discuss strategies for ensuring the integrity and validity of research findings. (350-400 words)
3. Examine the role of research in promoting evidence-based practices and innovations in higher education, and discuss the challenges associated with translating research into practice. (350-400 words)
4. Analyze the importance of research collaborations and partnerships in higher education, and propose strategies for fostering interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research initiatives. (350-400 words)

Area D: Diversity

1. Analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education, and discuss the role of leadership in creating a supportive campus climate. (350-400 words)
2. Discuss the impact of socioeconomic, racial, and cultural factors on student access, retention, and success in higher education, and propose strategies for addressing disparities. (350-400 words)
3. Examine the role of higher education institutions in fostering civic engagement and social responsibility among students, and discuss the implications for diversity and inclusion. (350-400 words)
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to diversity and inclusion in higher education, such as affirmative action, multicultural education, and inclusive pedagogy. (350-400 words)

Area E: Legal Aspects of Educational Administration

1. Examine the key legal issues facing higher education administrators, such as academic freedom, due process, and Title IX compliance, and discuss their implications for institutional policies and practices. (350-400 words)
2. Analyze the role of higher education administrators in ensuring compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, and discuss the potential consequences of non-compliance. (350-400 words)
3. Discuss the legal and ethical considerations associated with intellectual property rights in higher education, including copyright, patent, and trademark issues. (350-400 words)
4. Evaluate the impact of recent court decisions and legislative actions on higher education policies and practices, and propose strategies for adapting to these changes. (350-400 words)

Area F: Financial Aspects of Educational Administration

1. Discuss the various sources of funding for higher education institutions and the challenges associated with maintaining financial stability in an era of declining public support. (350-400 words)
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of different budgeting models and financial management strategies in higher education, and propose recommendations for improving financial sustainability. (350-400 words)
3. Analyze the impact of rising tuition costs and student debt on access and affordability in higher education, and discuss strategies for addressing these challenges. (350-400 words)
4. Examine the role of fundraising and development in higher education, and discuss the ethical and legal considerations associated with accepting donations and grants. (350-400 words)

Rubric for EdD Higher Education Study Guide:

1. Depth of Knowledge (25%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the subject matter, providing a wealth of relevant examples, evidence, and insights.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the subject matter, providing relevant examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 3 points: The response demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the subject matter, providing some examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 2 points: The response demonstrates a limited understanding of the subject matter, providing few examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates a lack of understanding of the subject matter, providing no relevant examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.

2. Critical Analysis (25%):

- 5 points: The response provides a highly insightful and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering innovative and well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 4 points: The response provides a thorough and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 3 points: The response provides a satisfactory analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering some arguments and solutions.
- 2 points: The response provides a limited analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering few arguments or solutions.
- 1 point: The response provides no critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering no arguments or solutions.

3. Organization and Clarity (20%):

- 5 points: The response is exceptionally well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 4 points: The response is well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 3 points: The response is adequately organized and clear, with a somewhat logical flow of ideas and transitions between paragraphs.
- 2 points: The response is poorly organized and lacks clarity, with a disjointed flow of ideas and abrupt transitions between paragraphs.
- 1 point: The response is disorganized and unclear, with no logical flow of ideas or transitions between paragraphs.

4. Writing Mechanics (15%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates excellent grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with no errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with few errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 3 points: The response demonstrates adequate grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with some errors and follows the specified word count requirements.

- 2 points: The response demonstrates poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with many errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates unacceptable grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with numerous errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.

5. Relevance and Applicability (15%):

- 5 points: The response is highly relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers practical, insightful, and actionable recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 4 points: The response is relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers practical insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 3 points: The response is somewhat relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers some insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 2 points: The response is minimally relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers few insights or recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 1 point: The response is not relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers no insights or recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.