Instructional Systems Technology

Distance Ed.D. Program

The Instructional Systems Technology (IST) Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program prepares graduates to work as practitioners with rigorous preparation in applied research as it is required in the field. Ed.D. Program graduates assume management, leadership and advanced design research roles in public or private agencies and organizations involved in one or more aspects of instructional technology. Our collective observation of the field suggests that the demand for graduates with advanced capabilities in applied research is rising as awareness of the value of action research, design research, complex evaluation and related activities is rising. The individuals most aware of their own need for this degree, and best prepared to pursue it successfully, are already employed in the field and therefore unable to move to Bloomington and follow a conventional residential program.

As students graduate from the distance M.S. program in IST, they are requesting more and more frequently that we offer them a practice-oriented doctoral program in applied research that they can pursue primarily at a distance. Over the course of the past ten years we have been contacted with increasing frequency by potential students outside our program asking for the same thing. At an estimate, about 1 in 5 graduating MS students online express interest in an online Ed.D., and we have currently about a half dozen additional external applicants asking to be informed as soon as we begin accepting applications.

Waldon University, Nova Southeastern University and Old Dominion University are the best known existing venues for earning an Ed.D. in educational technology. Of those, none is a peer institution and none enjoys our reputation in the field of educational technology for quality preparation at the doctoral level. We anticipate that when we make a public call for applications, the group that has come to us proactively seeking an online Ed.D. will be augmented by a larger group that wants this degree but has not contacted us previously asking for it.

Brief Description:
- all coursework is online
- 60 credits post-MS (MS core required if previous MS is not in the field)
- 30 credits in the major (includes 3 credits inquiry linkage & 3 credits doctoral readings)
- 9 credits inquiry, 3 credits learning theory, 9 credits minor
- 3 credits proposal preparation; 6 credits dissertation
- residency requirement:
    - at least one IST Summer Colloquium or one IST Conference
    - take the written qualifying examination on the IU Bloomington campus

- present the final defense of dissertation in person on the IU Bloomington campus

IST Distance Ed.D. Program Overview

Goals of the Program

The Instructional Systems Technology (IST) Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program is designed for individuals seeking to be practitioners in the field of instructional technology. The IST program prepares Ed.D. students to bridge the gap between research and practice in the field. The Ed.D. student learns to take the findings developed by basic and applied research and use them to build and test processes, products, and services that are ready for operational use in education and training settings. Ed.D. program graduates typically assume management and leadership roles in public or private agencies and organizations involved in one or more aspects of instructional technology.

Character of the Program

All online Ed.D. students will have access to a community forum in OnCourse through which they can communicate and share documents with faculty and other students. Each student in the program will be assigned an advisory committee whose chair will track the student's progress and be in contact directly with the student for a minimum of one synchronous academic advising session per semester.

Coursework in the program is intensive and led primarily by the faculty using a mix of technologies that includes synchronous tools like VoIP, Web-based video and chat and asynchronous tools like e-mail, discussion boards, blogs, and wikis. Students in these courses work on teams, complete hands-on design projects and work with clients in their local areas when coursework prescribes service learning.

Ed.D. students are required to attend at least once in person the annual IST Conference on the Bloomington campus. The annual IST Conference is typically held in February or March and is primarily intended for presentation and discussion of research and development done by IST doctoral students and faculty. In February 2010, the department held the tenth annual IST Conference with approximately 130 participants. Opportunities for face-to-face advising will be provided to every extent possible for Ed.D. students at this event.

When a student forms a dissertation committee, he or she will obtain an OnCourse site that is shared with committee members. Doctoral candidates will follow a timeline toward dissertation which includes regular online conferences and asynchronous document sharing with committee members, particularly the dissertation chair.

Assessment in the Program

During coursework student learning will be assessed via the same means we use for campus-based doctoral level programs:

- Performance on papers written and presented as part of seminars and other courses, assessed by the instructor of the course
- Project-based performance on research projects carried out within courses, assessed by the instructor of the course
- Approval of dissertation prospectus, proposal and document, assessed by the dissertation committee via consultation leading to public defense of the dissertation

In addition, a proctored qualifying exam will be held on site; attendance for the exam in person is required.

Comparison of the Ed.D. Residential and Distance Programs

While the residential and distance programs are fundamentally identical, there are a few differences worth noting:

- IST Inquiry Linkage increased from 3 to 6 hours to include both R690 (Application of Research Methods to IST Issues) and R711 (Readings in IST).
- Educational Foundations reduced from 6 to 3 hours
- Residency: The residential program required 18 hours within 12 months. The distance program requires attendance on the Bloomington campus during at least one IST Conference, with participation in the scholarly community shifted primarily to online forums. Ed.D. students are strongly encouraged to participate in national conferences where they can meet with faculty.
- Transfer Credit: The residential program description did not address the transfer of credit from other accredited institutions. The distance program description specifies:

> A minimum of 42 credits of the 60 credits required for the Ed.D. must be taken from Indiana University. Up to 18 credits of course work may be transferred from other accredited institutions, *but* these courses must be approved by your Program Advisory Committee *and* none of these courses can be part of the 30-credit master's degree that is a prerequisite to the Ed.D.