



August 2025

Dear Fall, 2025 Cohort member,

On behalf of the faculty of Alverno College, I would like to welcome you to our Fall 2025 cohort of Ed.D. students. You are in the “Mu Cohort”.

You and your fellow doctoral students have been selected for our program because of your experience, intentions, and promise as transformational educational leaders and practitioners. In reviewing all the cohort’s materials, the admissions committee was inspired by your collective commitment to equity in diverse contexts, your deep humanity, and your strong collaborative skill sets. In preparing for the launch of the semester, we would like you to have some details to inform your planning.

Our program, as you know, requires two residencies: one in the first semester of the doctoral program and one in the final semester, just prior to graduation. This semester, the first Residency will be the weekend of October 17 and October 18. **The Residency will be virtual.**

On Friday, October 17, you will meet with your advisor in a Social Hour Zoom meeting. Please plan on being available between 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Your advisor will set the exact time of the event with you later. On Saturday, October 18 we will be in a Zoom meeting beginning at 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Please note that all times are CST.

Your courses will begin the week of August 25. When the classes are synchronous, they are generally held on Thursday evenings 7:00 – 9:00 PM CST. On weeks that are asynchronous, your faculty will have online office hours so that you can seek support or connection as needed. You should plan to spend between 10-25 hours per week dedicated to your coursework and writing (the range is variable, as everyone’s learning rate differs).

Your fall semester list will include EDD 800, EDD 801, and EDD 802. **You are expected to enroll yourself in courses through Self-Service, our student software system.** [Registration instructions.](#)

The texts that will be required for your first courses are as follows:

- **EDD 800: Dissertation Advisory I** (meets biweekly all semester -specific times arranged with your dissertation advisor)

- Roberts, C., Hyatt, L. (2018). The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation (3rd edition, revised). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. ISBN: 978-1506373317.
- You will be connected with your dissertation advisor prior to the first week of EDD 800.
- **EDD 801: Principles and Practices of Transformational Educational Leadership** (meets the first eight weeks of the semester, August 25\* – October 17. Your first synchronous session will be Thursday, August 28) {**Attendance is required for this class**}
  - There are various readings for this class, but no one required text. You will be encouraged to purchase texts to build your professional library with any resources that particularly resonate with your research and leadership interests.
- **EDD 802: Research in Educational Contexts** (meets the second eight weeks of the semester, October 20\* – December 11. Your first synchronous session will be Thursday, October 23) {**Attendance is required for this class**}
  - You will be reading from online resources (articles/dissertations) and using the following two books concurrently to the work you are completing for EDD 800.
  - Creswell, J.W. (2018). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1506330204
  - Joyner, R.J., Rouse W.A. & Glathorn, A.A. (2018). Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. ISBN: 978-1544317205

You should also enroll in **EDD 700 – Orientation to the EDD Program**, a course on how to use Alverno's online systems and resources for our EDD students. It is imperative that you complete this session prior to the start of your courses. The course is designed to answer many of the technical questions students have.

All of the above-mentioned courses will have Brightspace access. Brightspace for EDD 700 and EDD 800 will open the week of August 11 for you to explore. Access to Brightspace for EDD 801 and EDD 802 will be available one week before the start of those courses.

You are also invited to attend a new student Town Hall meeting. This optional session will give you the opportunity to learn specifics about the program before you begin, as well as ask questions. This session will be held on Thursday, August 21 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (CT).

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://alverno.zoom.us/j/95539138259?pwd=a7AwaVcC1gl7glrTpmEBMPG0lapF2B.1>

Meeting ID: 955 3913 8259

Passcode: 960588

If you have decided not to attend the program, you must notify both the Registrar and me in writing within fourteen days of the semester start date, August 25 (including weekends). After that period, you will be responsible for payment of your courses for the semester. I can be reached at [Melissa.Bonds@Alverno.edu](mailto:Melissa.Bonds@Alverno.edu) and the registrar can be reached at [registrar@alverno.edu](mailto:registrar@alverno.edu).

Again, we are so glad to count you among the education doctoral students of Alverno College and look forward to our work together in the coming months and years. Together, we will fulfill the promise of #AlvernoStrong.

Sincerely,



Melissa J. Bonds, Ph.D.  
Director, Ed.D. Programs

