

Finish Your Dissertation, Don't Let It Finish You!

by Joy Cromwelle

Finish your doctoral program faster without a Dissertation! Explore 50 doctorate degree online no dissertation programs: EdD, DBA, DNP, PhD, PsyD.

Finish your doctoral program faster without a dissertation! Explore 50 doctorate degree online no dissertation programs: DBA, EdD, DNP, PhD, PsyD.

In the past, the majority of doctoral programs always required students to write a dissertation.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Now, instead of spending years working on a dissertation, a growing number of universities offer doctoral students an alternative to the dissertation process: a capstone project.

List of Doctorate Degrees without Dissertation Requirements

Here's a list of doctoral programs that don't require a dissertation. Instead, you complete a capstone project or a doctoral study project.

Click on your desired field to see a complete list of programs:

Like dissertations, capstone projects are a culmination of your education. They usually involve some original research or some type of applied practical knowledge in your field. It all depends on the school and program.

Be sure to check out the specializations available, as well as the particular requirements for each of these non dissertation PhD programs to be sure you select the one that will best suit you and help you achieve your goals.

Online Accounting Doctoral Programs

The Doctor of Business Administration offers specializations in accounting and focuses on domestic and international managerial accounting.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, financial managers are in high demand with a mean salary of \$134,180.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

These accounting programs do not require a dissertation:

Online Doctor of Business Administration " Accounting

Online Doctor of Business Administration " Finance

In addition, the need for financial managers in leadership positions is growing

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by 17% over the next ten years. And if you're interested in academia, the need for business educators is growing at the rate of 6% over the next ten years.

Online DBA Without Dissertation " Doctor of Business Administration

A Doctor of Business Administration is the highest academic degree program in the business world and is ideal for business professionals in corporations, the public sector, or academia.

Quite a few Online DBA concentrations are available without involving the dissertation process and associated research. Instead, you complete a capstone project or doctoral study project. These projects provide real-world learning and leadership opportunities.

An online DBA program focuses on advanced decision-making and leadership skills, integrating business theory and applied research. The capstone project or doctoral study project will relate to the specialization you have chosen and prepare you for that particular career path.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Most online DBA programs allow you to tailor your education by selecting the specialization that best suits your interests and aspirations.

No Dissertation DBA Programs:

Online DBA " Leadership

Online DBA " Project Management

Online DBA " General Business

Online DBA " Accounting

Online DBA â€" Finance

Online DBA â€" Human Resource Management

Online DBA â€" Supply Chain Management

Online DBA â€" Information Systems Management

Online DBA â€" International Business

Online DBA â€" Marketing

Online DBA â€" Entrepreneurship

Online DBA â€" Healthcare Management

Online DBA â€" Homeland Security

Online DBA â€" Social Impact Management

Online DBA â€" Technology Entrepreneurship

Online DBA â€" Energy Management

Whether you work full time as a business consultant or manager, as an entrepreneur, as a school administrator or in government, online PhD no dissertation programs like this can help you take your education â€" and your career in business â€" to the next level.

Online Doctorate in Computers & Information Technology

A doctoral degree in computer information systems or information technology trains you for senior management roles in

corporations, government agencies, and non-profits.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

These IT programs donâ€™t require a dissertation:

Online Doctor of Information Technology

Online DBA â€™ Information Systems Management

The Doctor of Information Technology and the Doctor of Business Administration are applied doctorate degree programs.

These online doctorate programs can prepare you for top-level positions such as IT strategist, IS manager, chief information officer, or even college faculty member.

Online Doctorate in Criminal Justice Programs

Earning your doctorate in criminal justice gives you the tools needed to analyze and operate in the social sciences in areas such as law and society, crime, policing, homeland security, and criminal behavior.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Criminal Justice programs are offered as follows:

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminal Justice

Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) in Criminal Justice

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in Criminal Justice

Doctor of Management (DM) in Criminal Justice

Doctor of Criminal Justice (DCJ)

Of these five degree program types, the PhD in Criminal Justice is the most common. However, the other four types of doctorates are professional doctorates and are more likely to require a capstone project in place of the dissertation process.

Online Doctoral Programs in Education without Dissertation

Having an advanced level degree in education can really set you apart and open new doors. That's where Doctor of Education programs come into play.

More and more universities are now offering online doctoral programs in education without dissertation requirements, which means you may be able to complete the program sooner, without neglecting your other obligations, and without writing that massive research paper!

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Unlike a PhD in Education which is heavily focused on research, a Doctor of Education (EdD) program is more focused on the real world practical application of knowledge. With the creation of the Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate (CPED) which looks at EdD curriculum and its development, an increasing number of universities are adopting a more practical approach in their curriculum.

For this reason, Doctor of Education programs are starting to offer capstone projects (or similar applications) as an alternative to the lengthy, research-intensive dissertation process.

Online EdD Programs without Dissertation:

Online EdD " Educational Leadership & Administration

Online EdD " Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

Online EdD â€" Reading, Literacy, & Assessment

Online EdD â€" Higher Education Leadership & Management

Online EdD â€" Community College Leadership

Online EdD â€" Educational Technology

Online EdD â€" Special Education

Online EdD â€" Early Childhood Education

Online EdD â€" Higher Education Leadership and Adult Learning

There are two main education doctorate options: a Ph.D. in Education and Doctor of Education (EdD). So which is the best choice?

A Ph.D. in Education is ideal for someone interested in academic and/or research positions in higher education, or in a corporate, military or government position. Unfortunately, this path does not have an online PhD without dissertation process. It is founded in research and theory, and you will be required to complete a traditional dissertation.

Doctor of Education programs, however, focus more on developments in the field and prepare you to work in a classroom or for a school district. Quite a few schools now offer online Ed.D. programs without dissertation programs.

If you are comparing online doctoral programs no dissertation, some of the specializations you may be able to choose from include:

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Educational Administration and Leadership

Personalized and Competency-Based Instruction

Early Childhood

K-12 Studies

Special Education

Educational Technology

Higher Education Leadership

The University of Southern Mississippi, for example, offers a part-time, fully online EdD program that culminates in a capstone project in educational administration instead of a traditional dissertation process.

Be sure to select one of the degree programs and specializations that will work with your lifestyle and commitments, and help you achieve your long-term career goals.

Online Doctoral Programs in Finance

The Doctor of Business Administration offers specializations in finance and focuses on international finance, entrepreneurial finance, law, and compliance.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, financial managers are in high demand with a mean salary of \$134,180.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

These finance degree programs do not require a dissertation:

Online Doctor of Business Administration â€" Finance

Online Doctor of Business Administration â€" Accounting

In addition, the need for financial managers is growing by 17% over the next ten years. And if youâ€™re interested in academia, the need for business educators is growing at the rate of 6% over the next ten years.

Online Healthcare Administration Doctoral Programs

The Doctor of Business Administration with a specialization in Healthcare Management provides advanced training in organizational leadership, professional management, and human resource development.

DBA in Healthcare Management degree programs will prepare you for senior-level leadership positions in the healthcare field.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

No dissertation required:

Online DBA â€" Healthcare Management

Explore cutting-edge strategies in leadership and decision-making while gaining a deep understanding of both theory and practice.

Online Homeland Security Doctoral Programs

With the global increase in terrorism and natural disasters, the need for homeland security leaders well-trained in crisis planning is on the rise.

The Doctor of Business Administration with a specialization in Homeland Security addresses global terrorism, risk analysis, policy challenges, organizational leadership, and emerging trends.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Does not require a dissertation:

Online DBA â€" Homeland Security

Courses include an in-depth look into homeland security policies, homeland security business planning, and business infrastructure vulnerability analysis, among others.

Online Management Doctoral Programs

A Doctor of Business Administration with a focus in management is designed to prepare you for strategic leadership. Not only will you develop advanced research skills, but you will also have the opportunity to learn new ways to address complex problems within your industry.

A Doctor of Business Administration is a professional doctorate that can help prepare you for high-level management positions in corporations, non-profits, or government agencies.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

These degree programs donâ€™t require a dissertation:

Online DBA â€" Leadership

Online DBA â€" Project Management

Online DBA â€" Supply Chain Management

Online DBA â€" Information Systems Management

Online DBA â€" Human Resource Management

Online DBA â€" Healthcare Management

Online DBA " Social Impact Management

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for management professionals is \$109,760, which is the highest wage of all major occupation groups.

Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Instead of following a traditional dissertation process in your studies, you will complete a DNP practicum.

Nurses participating in the DNP program will learn to take evidence-based research and put it into practice to improve patient outcomes.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

This DNP can be completed in as little as two years:

Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Leadership and innovation are also areas of focus to help encourage innovation and positive change in the healthcare system.

Online Doctor of Public Administration

The Doctor of Public Administration is an applied doctorate that gives you the in-depth knowledge you need to lead effectively and help create positive change in non-profits, government agencies, or similar organizations.

Doctor of Public Administration degree programs can help prepare you for a career in academia or to work in the public, private, or non-profit sectors.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Does not require dissertation:

Online Doctor of Public Administration (DPA)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows high-demand in the field. For example, the need for social and community service managers will grow by 15% in the next ten years.

Online Public Health Doctoral Programs

The Doctor of Public Health is a professional doctorate degree intended for individuals already working in the field of public health.

The field is interdisciplinary and covers topics ranging from advocacy and marketing to communications and leadership.

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

A number of concentrations are available such as epidemiology and biostatistics.

Career options vary but can include health officer, health policy advisor, and community health director.

Online PsyD Programs Without a Dissertation

The Doctor of Psychology is a professional degree program that covers both Clinical Psychology and Counseling Psychology.

There are a few online PsyD programs that require no dissertation.

Some common fields of specialization include:

Behavioral Health Leadership

Behavioral Psychology

Child, Adolescent and Family Psychology

Clinical Psychology

Couple or Family Therapy

Forensic Psychology

Health Psychology and Behavioral Medicine

Mental Illness

Neuropsychology

Editorial Listing ShortCode:

Instead of a dissertation, some PsyD programs (like Capella) allow you to complete a capstone project related to your field of specialization.

What is a Doctoral Dissertation?

A doctoral dissertation, the culmination of most doctoral degree programs, is a substantial written document in which the student uses the teachings and skills gleaned from the entire program to develop and discuss an original concept, theory or practice that will help advance the field.

Writing a dissertation is no easy feat! They are typically hundreds of pages long, and students work on them for over a year, reviewing research, conducting experiments and analyzing data.

Because this project is daunting, demanding, and often requires years of research, many universities have come up with

alternatives that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and provide worthwhile contributions to their field without completing a traditional dissertation.

What Are All But Dissertation Completion Programs?

“All But Dissertation” (ABD) completion programs, also known as PhD completion programs, are designed to help students who have completed all the requirements of a doctoral degree program except the dissertation.

Quite often, students work diligently through the coursework of their doctoral program, but fall short when it comes to completing the required dissertation. In fact, only about 56% of those who start a doctoral degree program earn their doctorate or PhD within 10 years. Completing a dissertation is an enormous project that entails extensive research and life, family, careers and other obligations sometimes get in the way.

For example, the Dissertation Completion Pathway (DCP) offered by Northcentral University is one example of a structured program that transfers credit for prior academic coursework and provides guidance and mentorship as you work to finish your dissertation. This type of program typically takes 2-3 years.

Is a Dissertation Required for a PhD?

Not always. In the past a dissertation was required for a PhD, but a growing number of institutions have started to offer online doctoral programs no dissertation.

Instead, students may complete a capstone project to demonstrate their knowledge and provide new contributions to the field. This may be a combination of a research paper and fieldwork, or perhaps you might do some consulting work at a functioning business. However, in most cases, it will require considerably less independent research than what is required for a dissertation.

Capstone projects vary from school to school, and program to program.

One of the benefits of non-dissertation doctorate degrees is that you can finish in less time. Check out our post on accelerated online doctoral programs for a deeper look.

Is Financial Aid Available for Online PhD Programs?

Yes, financial aid is available for online PhD programs.

Federal Financial Aid

First, you should submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), just like you did when you were an undergraduate student. This will open the door to federal grants and loans, as well as many other resources.

State Financial Aid

In addition to federal financial aid, almost 40 states offer student loan programs. Like Federal loans, the interest rates offered by most state programs are generally less than those charged by private student loan lenders. You can check out the individual State Financial Aid programs here.

Scholarships and Grants for Online Doctorate Programs

Additionally, online PhD and doctoral students are often eligible for grants, fellowships, and scholarships. These may be available through the school, large corporations, or professional associations that take your work experience into account.

Here are some helpful doctoral scholarship resources:

You can also check with the financial aid office at the university or college you choose to learn more about institutional funding and financial aid opportunities.

Can You Get a No Dissertation Doctorate Online?

Yes! A growing number of reputable, accredited colleges and universities offer non-dissertation doctorate programs. We've compiled a list of universities offering online doctorate degrees without dissertation requirements.

Universities Offering No Dissertation Online Doctorate Degree Programs

Methodology: The following school list is in alphabetical order. To be included, a college or university must be accredited and offer degree programs online or in a hybrid format.

University Featured Image tbl-programs Location mdgtbl-description Expand All Arizona State University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Arizona ACCREDITATION HLC ASU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Online DBH (Doctor of Behavioral Health) Bay Path University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Massachusetts ACCREDITATION NECHE Bay Path Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate)

Online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) Baylor University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Texas ACCREDITATION SACSCOC Baylor is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor's, master's, specialist, and doctoral degree programs. Online EdD " Learning and Organizational Change Capella University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Minnesota ACCREDITATION HLC Capella is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Online EdD or DBA " Multiple Concentrations East Tennessee State University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Tennessee ACCREDITATION HLC ETSU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral degree programs. Online EdD " Global Sport Leadership Eastern Kentucky University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Kentucky ACCREDITATION SACSCOC EKU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) Gannon University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Pennsylvania ACCREDITATION MSCHE Gannon is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) Georgia College & State University PROGRAM Online LOCATION STATE ACCREDITATION SACSCOC GCSU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) Indiana State University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Indiana ACCREDITATION HLC Indiana State has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1915. Online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) Johns Hopkins University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Maryland ACCREDITATION MSCHE Johns Hopkins is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Online EdD (Does not require a traditional dissertation process; students work on an applied dissertation that is part of EdD coursework) Liberty University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Virginia ACCREDITATION SACSCOC Liberty University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Online DBA Programs " they offer applied research projects. Loma Linda University PROGRAM Online LOCATION California ACCREDITATION WSCUC Loma Linda is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) Morehead State

University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Kentucky ACCREDITATION SACSCOC Morehead State is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Online EdD â€" 3 doctoral specializations available Nebraska Methodist College PROGRAM Online LOCATION Nebraska ACCREDITATION HLC NMC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Online EdD â€" Education & Leadership in Healthcare New York University PROGRAM Online LOCATION New York ACCREDITATION MSCHE NYU is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Online EdD â€" Leadership and Innovation Northcentral University PROGRAM Online LOCATION California ACCREDITATION WSCUC NCU is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Online EdS â€" 16 Graduate level concentrations available, but not a doctorate degree. No dissertation required. Quinnipiac University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Connecticut ACCREDITATION NECHE Quinnipiac is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) Temple University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Pennsylvania ACCREDITATION MSCHE Temple is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) Texas Womanâ€™s University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Texas ACCREDITATION SACSCOC TWU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees. Online OTD (Occupational Therapy Doctorate) University of Massachusetts â€" Boston PROGRAM Online LOCATION Massachusetts ACCREDITATION NECHE UMB is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education. Online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) University of Southern California PROGRAM Online LOCATION California ACCREDITATION WSCUC USC has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges since March 6, 1949. Online DSW (Doctor of Social Work) University of Southern Mississippi PROGRAM Online LOCATION Mississippi ACCREDITATION SACSCOC USM is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award degrees at the baccalaureate, masters, specialists and doctoral levels. Online EdD â€" Educational Administration University of Virginia PROGRAM Online LOCATION Virginia ACCREDITATION SACSCOC UVA is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masterâ€™s and doctoral degree programs. Online EdD â€" Curriculum & Instruction University of Western States PROGRAM Online LOCATION Oregon ACCREDITATION NWCCU UWS is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Online EdD â€" Sport and Performance Psychology Utica College PROGRAM Online LOCATION New York ACCREDITATION MSCHE Utica is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Online DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) Vanderbilt University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Tennessee ACCREDITATION SACSCOC Vanderbilt is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelorâ€™s, masterâ€™s, professional, and doctoral degrees. Online EdD â€" Leadership and Learning in Organizations Virginia Commonwealth University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Virginia ACCREDITATION SACSCOC VCU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate, masterâ€™s, doctoral and first-professional degrees. Online EdD â€" Leadership Walden University PROGRAM Online LOCATION Minnesota ACCREDITATION HLC Walden has been

accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1990. Online Programs: Online DBA

Online PsyD â€” Behavioral Health

Online EdD West Virginia University PROGRAM Online LOCATION West Virginia ACCREDITATION HLC WVU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, which guarantees the quality of the university as a whole. Online DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice)

These programs can work around your existing obligations such as family or work commitments, and will allow you to advance in your career and contribute to your field in ways that donâ€™t require a massive research paper and the massive amount of dissertation research that goes along with it!

Are There Any PhD Programs Without Dissertation Requirements?

Yes, there are quite a few doctoral programs without dissertation requirements, but PhD programs without dissertation requirements are few and far between. In these cases, instead of the dissertation most commonly used in a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program, a capstone project is required to help you put your new-found skills to good use.

In the past, dissertations were required so that you could demonstrate your knowledge and expertise in your field. But universities have started to realize that there are quite a few ways you can do that.

As you can see with the online DBA programs, a few colleges are no longer requiring dissertations. They allow you to complete a doctoral capstone project instead. No, itâ€™s not technically a dissertation. But you do prove that you have acquired a high level of expertise in your field of study.

Higher education is continuing to change at a rapid pace. As another example, a number of PhD programs without GRE requirements are appearing.

How Many Credits Do PhD Programs Require?

Most PhD programs require between 54 and 90 credit hours. Thatâ€™s between 18 and 30 courses. That is a huge range!

This is true for both campus-based PhD programs and online PhD programs.

Let's look at one of Northcentral University's online programs as an example. The online DBA in Accounting is 54 credit hours and consists of 18 courses (most courses are 3 credit hours).

In contrast, if you attend a state university campus program like the University of Illinois, the PhD in Business requires 64 credit hours (around 21 courses), provided you already have your master's degree.

Are There Any EdD Programs Without dissertation?

Yes, there are a number of EdD programs without dissertation research papers. Here is a list of Ed.D. concentrations / specializations without a dissertation requirement: Online Doctor of Education list.

Are There Any Online Educational Administration Doctorate Degrees with No Dissertation required?

Yes! You can get a without completing a dissertation: Online EdD " Educational Leadership & Administration

Do All Doctoral Programs Require a Dissertation?

No. A wide-range of doctoral programs do not have a dissertation. Instead, graduate schools allow you to complete a capstone project which focuses on solving a real-world problem.

You can also earn your doctorate through an accredited online program if you don't want to attend on campus.

Is a PhD Program Without a Dissertation Respected?

A dissertation allows students the opportunity to demonstrate expertise in their field of study through extensive research and an associated dissertation research paper.

In certain fields, a dissertation will be the measure of quality. This is true for academia should you ever want to be a tenured professor at Harvard. But if that's not your goal, doctoral programs in higher education, leadership, or

business administration are reputable â€" provided you earn your doctorate from a graduate school with regional accreditation.

Can I Get an Online Doctorate Degree Without a dissertation?

Yes. There are dozens of online doctorate degrees with no dissertation being offered from accredited universities. The most common doctoral degree programs are the Doctor of Education, Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of Psychology, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Are There Any 18 month Doctorate with No Dissertation Programs?

Yes. Some online PhD no dissertation programs can be completed in as little as 18 to 24 months.

To finish in a short time like this, you will need to be enrolled full time and progressing through your courses successfully. You will also need your capstone project to be approved in a timely manner. Again, in order to complete your doctorate in less than 18 months, youâ€™ll need to enroll in a PhD without thesis or dissertation requirement.

Are There Any PhD Without Dissertation Programs Online?

Yes, a number of universities offer online doctoral degree programs without dissertation to help working professionals juggle full time jobs with their studies. Weâ€™ve compiled a list of them above. As more universities offer no dissertation doctorates, we will update the list.

Itâ€™s worth noting that while these programs do not require traditional dissertations, there will usually be a research project (usually known as a Capstone) through which you demonstrate what you have learned. Each program should detail the capstone experience requirements and the opportunities you will have while enrolled.

You can complete your program as a full time, working professional from the comfort of your own home!

Reference

[Birth Territory and Midwifery Guardianship: Theory for Practice, Education and Research](#)

[Cluttering: A Handbook of Research, Intervention and Education](#)