OVERVIEW

The historical roots of social change are grounded in adult education. This specialization is designed for educators who want to think broadly about the field of adult education, whether in community-based settings, schools, and government, or the private sector. The specialization guides students in understanding the interdisciplinary nature of adult education as a field of study, principles of adult learning and development, and the impact of adult educators on organizations and communities in which they work.

The Adult Education Leadership curriculum at Walden University asks that learners focus on the dual nature of adult education: it is both a field of study and a field of practice. The study of adult education requires an interdisciplinary approach, pulling foundational knowledge from history, philosophy, political science, economics, sociology, psychology and human development, and leadership. As a field of practice, adult education relies heavily upon community-based education that provides for community development through a variety of post-secondary initiatives.

SPECIALIZATION OUTCOMES

All Walden University students are asked to meet University-wide and Ph.D. in Education program outcomes. In addition, students who graduate with the Ph.D. in Education from Walden University and a specialization in Adult Education Leadership should demonstrate leadership and reflective practice in adult education through the ability to
• Evaluate the general roles and interconnections among the roles of the adult learner, adult educator, the administration, the organizational system, and the local-to-global context in which the organization operates.

• Integrate adult learning theories with program and instructional design research to implement, evaluate, and improve instructional practices and learning outcomes for diverse population of adults.

• Identify and evaluate elements of program design and implementation that contribute to an organization’s integrity, effectiveness, and mission fulfillment.

• Analyze, with an historical and global perspective, the local practice of adult education in order to engage learners in promoting social justice and social change.

CURRICULUM (for new students admitted Fall Quarter 2006 and thereafter)

Walden University doctoral students fulfill the Adult Education Leadership specialization outcomes through five Knowledge Area Modules (KAMs) and the final dissertation. The Foundations of Doctoral Study, courses that comprise the research sequence, and a specialized Milestone 4 Residency support and supplement the KAM curriculum.

Prior to Fall Quarter 2006, the Adult Education Leadership specialization was offered in coordination with the Indiana University School of Continuing Studies. Students admitted to this specialization prior to Fall 2006 completed the Core KAMs, the Foundations of Doctoral Study, the research sequence, and 42 credit hours of on-line courses delivered electronically by the Indiana University School of Continuing Studies.