

FinishEdD or PhinishedD: Finding the Doctorate for YOU!

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INTRODUCTION

- **Andrew** is a higher education administrator with aspirations of becoming a full-time professor
- He connected with one of his mentors, **Joanne**, who has her Ed.D. and has extensive experience
- She reviews doctoral applications and teaches students at Rowan and Wilmington University
- This poster is a reflection of what they have learned in their collective experience searching for programs and empowering doctoral students

DEFINITIONS

Ed.D.: Doctor of Education: a terminal degree that is often practitioner based and prepares educators

- Focuses on application of specific practices, generation of new knowledge, and stewardship of profession (“CPED Framework,” n.d.)

Ph.D.: Doctor of Philosophy: an advanced research qualification usually involving independent research

- Required to write dissertation which represents a significant and substantial piece of research
- Must be conveyed in a lucid and scholarly manner, demonstrating good general knowledge of an academic field (“What is a DPhil?” 2018)

When choosing a doctorate, reflect on the three P’s: **PLACEMENT, PROGRAM, & PURPOSE** and your interest in research, teaching, practice, and service

JOB PLACEMENT

- Revise your career plan throughout studies
- Connect with your career center
- Explore opportunities and promotions in final year
- Consider administration, research, or teaching
- Keep in mind the type of institution you would work at and implications (Research 1, R2, Moderate)

DID YOU KNOW

- The first Ph.D.s were first awarded in Classics and Physics at Yale University in 1861! (Hall, 2019)

APPLICATION PHASE

- **Andrew** knew the Ph.D. would be the best fit for him considering his interest in becoming a full-time professor placed at research institution
- **Joanne** chose an Ed.D. program at the institution where she worked as the most feasible option given her career goals, prior commitments to maintaining full-time position, and raising a family

STUDENT PHASE

- **Ed.D.** incorporates action research - talk to Joanne as her dissertation was an action research project for the student population she served. Meet tuition reimbursement standards
- **Ph.D.:** 15-20 hours/week in assistantship. Gather resources for dissertation and attempt to publish in peer reviewed top-tier academic journals. Take qualifier exam at end of year 3

CANDIDATE PHASE

- Choose a chair who has the **same work ethic**
- Choose committee members who support **you**
- Back map all chapters up to defense month
- Stay on track with mutual timelines set

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