



THE VALUE OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CCCU COUNCIL FOR COLLABORATION IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION

Historically, most CCCU schools were founded to offer undergraduate programs. Over time, some expanded their offerings to include masters programs and even doctoral programs. Since doctoral programs can be costly to implement, it is essential for educational leaders to explore the value that such a program can bring to the institution, its mission, and to those they serve.

Why Would a Christian University Want to Invest in Doctoral Education?

Doctoral education programs, whether they are “professional” degrees (e.g., Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Missiology, Doctor of Psychology, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Doctor of Physical Therapy), or “academic” degrees like the Doctor of Philosophy, allow Christian universities to have a unique impact in the world that supports and extends beyond what is typically accomplished through undergraduate and masters programs.

Though doctoral programs may not profit a university financially, they consistently propel accomplishment of their mission and vision exponentially. Their impact on our world multiplies through investment in the faithful men and women we prepare to serve, lead, and teach. As good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, we need to invest wisely and appropriately in doctoral programs that will position CCCU schools and their graduates to have the greatest opportunity to address the significant moral, ethical, spiritual, and academic issues facing our world. We encourage CCCU schools to recognize that while some professional or clinical doctoral programs may cover their costs, others, like the PhD, typically do not. However, in spite of their costs, many schools will still want to offer these programs because of their contribution to their institution’s mission and vision and the ways they advance the academic and service reputation of their school, adding to brand awareness nationally and internationally.



Undergraduate Programs

- Equip emerging adults to impact the world for Christ vocationally
- An investment in a critical time of transition into early adulthood
- Sets patterns and direction for living as Kingdom people



Masters Programs

- Extend and deepen students’ knowledge and skills in their disciplines
- Equip students to tackle deeper challenges in their fields of study and service
- Deepens an understanding of God’s calling, prepare for greater responsibilities



Doctoral Programs

- Equip advanced students to create and apply knowledge and influence their fields, bringing a Christian perspective to the challenges in their areas of service
- Multiply the impact of faculty members in their disciplines as they equip the next generation of scholars and leaders
- Raise the academic credibility and profile of Christian universities and their graduates in their fields and communities they serve



HOW THE CCCU COUNCIL FOR COLLABORATION IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION CAN HELP

The CCCU Council for Collaboration in Doctoral Education exists to foster the development of strong doctoral programs by promoting collaboration among doctoral program directors, doctoral faculty, and those with oversight over doctoral education who wish to benefit from networking with their peers. We do so by offering the following services:

CCCU DOCTORAL EDUCATION FORUM

A biennial gathering of doctoral program directors, faculty, and administrators from Christian higher education institutions to consider common issues impacting our doctoral education efforts. Our next Forum is September 29-October 1, 2022, at Judson University, in Elgin, IL, USA.

NEW(ER) DOCTORAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR BOOTCAMP

A one-day event for those who are new doctoral program directors, or who are preparing to launch a new doctoral program. Held in conjunction with the biennial Forum, September 29, 2022, at Judson University, in Elgin, IL.

DOCTORAL EDUCATION WEBINARS

This past year, we have hosted webinars on common doctoral education issues, including breakout discussion groups by program type or discipline. Information on future webinars can be found at the CCCU website.

COUNCIL FOR COLLABORATION IN DOCTORAL EDUCATION RESOURCE PORTAL

We are developing a collection of resources to assist those desiring to learn more about doctoral program issues and models. This can be accessed at this CCCU webpage: www.cccu.org/doctoredcouncil/

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNAL

Published in Winter 2020, this Special Issue on “Doctoral Education Issues and Practice in Christian Higher Education” (Vol. 20, Nos. 1-2) provides an overview of key issues in doctoral education in CHE institutions.

This can be accessed at:

www.tandfonline.com/toc/uche20/20/1-2?nav=tocList

CONSULTATION FOR NEW PROGRAMS AND PROGRAM REDESIGN

For CCCU institutions developing new doctoral programs, we encourage you to contact us so we can help connect you with others who have experience with the kind of doctoral program you are starting. Contact the Council Chair, Dr. Kevin E. Lawson for more information: kevin.lawson@biola.edu

Coming Soon

A NEW NETWORKING COMMUNITY FOR DOCTORAL PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND FACULTY

Later in 2022, we will be launching a discussion forum for doctoral program directors and faculty in the form of a Networking Community. Look for more information on the CCCU Website: www.cccu.org/programs-services/

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the CCCU webpages:

www.cccu.org/doctoredcouncil/

Also, feel free to contact the Council Chair, Dr. Kevin E. Lawson to learn more about how the CCCU Council for Collaboration in Doctoral Education can be of help to your institution: kevin.lawson@biola.edu

