

School of Graduate Studies

Graduate Admissions – Doctoral

Cavalla International University welcomes accomplished scholars, researchers, educators, senior professionals, executives, and practitioners seeking the highest level of academic and professional development.

Admission to a doctoral program is highly competitive. It represents a significant academic commitment and is reserved for applicants who demonstrate the intellectual maturity, academic preparation, research capacity, professional experience, and commitment necessary for advanced doctoral study.

The program seeks exceptional individuals who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, leadership potential, professional accomplishment, and the capacity to undertake original, independent research that contributes meaningfully to educational scholarship, policy, and practice.

To preserve the quality of doctoral supervision and provide individualized faculty mentorship, **only a small cohort of highly qualified applicants is admitted each academic year.** Admission is based not only on academic credentials, but also on research potential, alignment of research interests with faculty expertise, and the University's ability to provide appropriate supervision. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

Concurrent Master's/Doctoral Degree Pathway

The University offers a **Concurrent Master's/Doctoral Degree Pathway** for **highly motivated and academically outstanding applicants who hold a bachelor's degree** and demonstrate exceptional promise for advanced scholarly research. This highly selective pathway enables qualified students to begin graduate study leading to both the master's and doctoral degrees through an integrated program of study.

Upon successful completion of all master's-level requirements and demonstration of satisfactory academic and research progress, students advance to full doctoral candidacy without submitting a separate application to the Ph.D. program.

Because of the rigorous nature of doctoral education, **only a limited number of exceptionally qualified bachelor's degree holders are selected each year** for admission to the Concurrent Master's/Doctoral Degree Pathway.

A bachelor's degree alone does not constitute automatic eligibility for direct doctoral study. Admission to the concurrent pathway is selective and requires individual academic review and approval by the University.

Minimum Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to a CIU doctoral program are normally expected to satisfy the following requirements.

1. Master's Degree or Equivalent

Applicants must ordinarily hold a **master's degree or recognized equivalent** from an appropriately recognized institution of higher education. The master's degree should normally be in a field related to the proposed doctoral program.

2. Official Academic Transcripts

Applicants must submit **official academic transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended**. Unofficial copies may be accepted for initial enrollment.

3. Doctoral Statement of Purpose

Applicants must submit a **Doctoral Statement of Purpose of at least 500 words** explaining their motivation for pursuing doctoral study and their intended academic, research, or professional direction.

The statement should address:

- Academic and professional background;
- Reasons for pursuing doctoral study;
- Intellectual and scholarly interests;
- Proposed area of specialization;
- Intended research interests;
- Professional or academic objectives;
- Anticipated contribution to the field; and
- Reasons the selected doctoral pathway is appropriate for the applicant.

The statement should demonstrate **intellectual maturity, clarity of purpose, scholarly motivation, and commitment to sustained doctoral study**.

4. Curriculum Vitae or Résumé

Applicants must submit a current **Curriculum Vitae (CV) or professional résumé** documenting their academic and professional development.

5. Letters of Recommendation

Applicants may be required to submit **two or more letters of recommendation** from individuals qualified to assess their academic, research, professional, or leadership capabilities.

7. Scholarly Writing Sample

Applicants may be required to submit a **scholarly writing sample** demonstrating their ability to:

- Develop a coherent academic argument;
- Critically evaluate scholarly literature;
- Analyze evidence;
- Conduct advanced inquiry;
- Communicate complex ideas effectively; and
- Write at an appropriate doctoral level.

Acceptable writing samples may include a thesis chapter, research paper, published article, policy analysis, or comparable scholarly work.

8. Ph.D. by Publication Applicants

Applicants seeking admission to the **Ph.D. by Publication** pathway should provide evidence of their existing scholarly record.

This may include:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles;
- Books or scholarly monographs;
- Book chapters;
- Conference publications;
- Research reports;
- Significant professional research; and
- Other substantial scholarly contributions.

Applicants may also be required to submit a preliminary portfolio or overview explaining how their existing publications relate to a coherent research theme and demonstrate an original contribution to the field.

Admission to the Ph.D. by Publication pathway is subject to evaluation of the applicant's scholarly portfolio and research readiness.

9. Doctor of Professional Studies Applicants

Applicants seeking admission to the **Doctor of Professional Studies** should demonstrate substantial professional experience or achievement relevant to their proposed field.

Evidence may include:

- Professional leadership;
- Executive or managerial experience;
- Advanced professional practice;
- Organizational accomplishments;
- Professional certifications;
- Applied research;
- Policy development;
- Consulting or advisory experience; or
- Other significant professional contributions.

Applicants should explain how their professional experience informs their intended area of applied doctoral research.

10. Identification

Applicants must provide a valid government-issued identification document or passport for identity verification and academic record administration.

11. Application Fee

Applicants must submit the applicable **non-refundable doctoral application fee** at the time of application.

Doctoral Interview

Depending upon the program and applicant's background, CIU may invite applicants to participate in a **doctoral admissions interview**.

The interview may address:

- Academic preparation;
- Professional experience;
- Research interests;
- Proposed research topic;
- Scholarly or professional accomplishments;
- Motivation for doctoral study;
- Intended doctoral pathway; and
- Readiness for independent research.

Interviews may be conducted virtually

Standardized Tests

GRE and GMAT scores are generally not required for admission to CIU doctoral programs, unless a specific program establishes an additional testing requirement.

The University places greater emphasis on academic preparation, research capacity, intellectual purpose, professional achievement, scholarly potential, and readiness for doctoral-level study.

Doctoral Admission Checklist

Applicants should ensure that the following materials are submitted:

- Completed Doctoral Admission Application
 - Master's degree or recognized equivalent
 - Official academic transcripts
 - Doctoral Statement of Purpose
 - Preliminary Research Proposal, where required
 - Current Curriculum Vitae or résumé
 - Two or more letters of recommendation, where required
 - Scholarly writing sample, where required
 - Evidence of research preparation
 - Publication portfolio, for Ph.D. by Publication applicants
 - Evidence of professional achievement, for Doctor of Professional Studies applicants
 - English-language proficiency documentation, when applicable
 - Valid government-issued identification or passport
 - Applicable application fee
 - Additional program-specific documentation, where required
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A Commitment to Doctoral Excellence

Admission to a CIU doctoral program represents entry into the highest level of academic and professional study offered by the University.

Doctoral candidates are expected to move beyond the mastery of existing knowledge toward **independent inquiry, critical scholarship, original contribution, and advanced professional or academic leadership.**

Whether through the **Traditional Research Ph.D., Ph.D. by Publication, or Doctor of Professional Studies**, candidates are expected to demonstrate the capacity to conduct rigorous investigation, engage critically with existing scholarship, produce substantial doctoral-level work, and contribute meaningfully to their discipline or profession.

The Fast-Track pathway provides an accelerated route to doctoral completion for qualified students while maintaining the **same essential academic standards, learning outcomes, and doctoral requirements** as the standard pathway.

Apply To CIU