



# Doctor of Education Applicants Only

## Letter of Support

All candidates for admission to the Ed.D. program who will be working in a professional capacity while they are in the program must submit a letter of support from their employer.

\_\_\_\_\_ is applying for admission to the Doctor of Education Degree Program at Valdosta State University. This is a rigorous program, requiring two years of course work and additional time to complete a dissertation. A dedicated candidate can successfully complete the program while working full time; however, such a candidate cannot expect to succeed in the program if he or she is taking on responsibilities above the normal requirements of his or her job. A student must have some flexibility in his or her work hours in order to meet the demands of the program.

An organization employing a student in the program can expect to receive a number of benefits from its employee's participation. The employee will be gaining valuable skills and advanced knowledge that will serve her or his organization well. We believe that this is a sound investment in the organization's development.

We are asking responsible personnel in the organization to support the student in two key ways. First, the student should be able to adjust his or her work hours, if and when required, in order to meet his or her class obligations. Second, where feasible, the student should be allowed to work on a problem facing the organization while doing field work. The Ed.D. degree at Valdosta State University is a professional, applied degree. Students are expected to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom to actual problems in the field. The organization benefits from this by having a highly trained person focus on specific issues of importance to the organization. The student gains by being able to immediately apply the knowledge and skills gained in the classroom in a work setting.

Your support of the candidate is essential for his or her success in the program. We at Valdosta State University thank you for the consideration you are giving to this candidate.

I have read the statement above, and I agree to support \_\_\_\_\_ in his or her academic program to the extent that such support is feasible within the personnel and other policy constraints of the organization.

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