

# NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE EDUCATION

### APPLICATION ESSAY CRITERIA



#### **M.Ed. & Ed.S. Candidates (All Programs):**

Two options are available to M.Ed. and Ed.S. candidates to fulfill the essay requirement of the NNU Graduate Education application:

##### Option 1

Please select one of the following prompts provided below and compose a 2-3 page essay. The essay should be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and include one-inch margins. Essays should include a minimum of 2 cited and referenced sources supporting the information included. The purpose of the essay is to provide evidence of writing competency and should be indicative of the candidate's individual and original work.

Available Essay Topics (Choose 1):

- The importance of curriculum design in meeting the diverse needs of students
- The need for educational accessibility of all learners
- The role of innovation in the teaching and/or learning environment
- The value of reflection as a tool for professional development
- Methods of decision making
- The difference between a manager and an instructional leader

##### Option 2

Provide a 3+ page paper that is representative of academic writing previously written by you. Examples of this submission could include: a thesis, journal article, academic paper, etc. The sample should provide evidence of research-based

writing and include a minimum of 2 cited and referenced outside resources. The purpose of the essay is to provide evidence of writing competency and should be indicative of the candidate's individual and original work.

#### **Ph.D. & Ed.D. Educational Leadership Candidates:**

- Please provide a 10-20 page paper that is representative of academic writing (i.e. thesis, journal article, and/or academic paper. The sample should provide evidence of research-based writing and include citations from outside sources. The writing sample should follow APA formatting (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, margins, etc.).
- All applicants are required to submit a personal Statement of Purpose. Your statement should be focused, informative, and convey the following in 3-5 pages:
  1. Your academic and professional interests
  2. The reasons behind selecting this particular program and Northwest Nazarene University
  3. How this degree will impact your role in the educational community