

Application Instructions: MA in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies (Higher Education Leadership)

Program Description

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies aims to develop TK-12, higher education, and workforce development leaders from diverse backgrounds who will positively impact all educational settings. The program specifically focuses on cultivating leaders who promote learning, equity, social justice and achievement for all students. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies seeks to prepare transformational leaders with the capacity to effectively facilitate and manage change.

The mission of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Higher Educational Leadership program is to develop educational leaders from diverse backgrounds who will effectively lead and improve higher education systems. Our program aims to prepare school teachers, who possess the following core skills, qualities, and characteristics:

- Be visionary change agents
- Create collaborative learning communities
- Engage in reflective leadership practices
- Lead for inclusiveness, multiculturalism, and change
- Implement research-based and site-based best practices
- Be a creative and innovative leader in a changing world

Past graduates of our program successfully serve in a broad variety of leadership roles within higher education four-year institutions, community colleges, and professional associations in the field of higher education systems both in the region and across the state, as well as throughout the nation and around the globe. In addition, upon completion of our program, several of our graduates have chosen to pursue a Doctorate in Educational Leadership degree at California State University, Sacramento.

Here is what Makes Our Programs Unique:

1. **Hybrid, and Online Options:** We offer hybrid and online options for our programs in order to meet the needs of our students.
2. **Supportive Cohort-Based Learning:** The students in your cohort will matriculate through all coursework together, creating opportunities to support and learn from one another.
3. **Practitioners as Faculty:** Courses are taught by current and past higher education practitioners knowledgeable about educational policy matters who are considered leading experts within their fields.

Minimum Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Higher Education Leadership requires:

- A baccalaureate degree;
- A minimum 2.5 GPA in the last 60 units;

- Proficiency in written composition as demonstrated by the submission of a writing sample (essay, prompt provided) with the application package; and,
- Successful interview with faculty, demonstrating:
 - Preparation for graduate level study
 - Professional experience at any level in higher education
 - Some leadership experience
 - Familiarity with current issues in education
 - Knowledge of conflict resolution and negotiation skills
 - Knowledge of higher education as a field
 - Entry level understanding of ethical leadership
 - Vision for P-16 education

Applicants who have deficiencies in admission requirements that can be removed by specified additional preparation may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response to the student's admission application.

Admission Procedures

Each applicant must submit the following:

- A resume or curriculum vitae highlighting relevant experience;
- A Personal Statement (maximum 500 words) that addresses:
 - Your experiences or the factors that led you to apply for the program;
 - The leadership characteristics you believe you possess;
 - Those personal characteristics you believe you possess that will enable you to be successful in the program; and
 - Your professional interests
- Essay
 - Prompt: Describe your ultimate objective(s) in higher education leadership. What steps do you plan to take to achieve these objectives?
 - Maximum 250 words
- Two recommendations; and
- One set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State*; official electronic transcripts sent directly from colleges/universities to gradtranscripts@csus.edu or official hard copy transcripts sent directly from colleges/universities to:

Office of Graduate Studies
 California State University, Sacramento
 Riverfront Center, Room 215, MS 6112

6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Approximately two weeks after the deadline for submission of application materials to the Department, each applicant will be scheduled for an interview. Approximately two weeks after all applicants have been interviewed, a decision regarding admission will be mailed to each applicant.

Documents Page in Quadrant IV

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 - The leadership characteristics you believe you possess;
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Optional:

none

Letter of Recommendations Page in Quadrant IV

Required: two recommendations

Directions: Please request recommendations from two individuals who can provide information pertaining to your educational practices and experience.

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