

# Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

## Departmental Mission, Vision and Goals statements

### Mission:

The mission of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies is to advance the quality and effectiveness of educational institutions and individuals engaged in education. The department is guided by the missions of Iowa State University and the College of Human Sciences and embodies the concepts of the land-grant tradition of teaching, research, and service. The department is dedicated to enhancing the intellectual, cultural, social, and ethical potential of students and faculty for the benefit of Iowa, the nation, and the world. Specifically, the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies:

- Provides graduate degree and career preparation programs, coursework, and other learning opportunities for students and practitioners.
- Conducts and disseminates basic and applied research for the advancement of educational theory and practice.
- Provides professional service for institutions, individuals, and organizations at all levels of education.

### Vision:

**Research:** All Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty create and disseminate knowledge and promote educational inquiry that enhances educational practices at local, state, national, and international levels.

**Teaching:** All Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty engage in teaching that is consonant with the principles of adult learning and effective teaching that help students develop critical thinking and professionally relevant skills, and that provides a foundation for the application of knowledge to practice.

**Service:** All Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty, using their professional expertise, work with educators, educational institutions, and other constituent groups to solve problems.

**Advising:** All Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty foster students' professional and personal growth by guiding and inspiring them to formulate and complete relevant programs of study and to conduct high quality research.

**Curricula/Program:** The Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty develop and implement futuristic curricula and programs to ensure that students learn to think critically and perform their professional roles in an exemplary fashion.

### General Goals:

The general goals of the department, and hence of each of its program areas and affiliated programs, are to:

- Conduct high quality graduate education programs, both on- and off-campus, for students seeking graduate degrees in a major in education and/or seeking professional licensure as school service personnel.
- Establish appropriate conditions, opportunities, and resources with which both faculty and graduate students may engage in scholarly activities.
- Assist the educational enterprise of Iowa in development by utilizing, when appropriate, the talents and expertise of the faculty and graduate student body in such activities as workshops, conferences, and consultation in small groups, both on- and off-campus.

## Graduate Study

**Degrees:** The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies -- ELPS -- offers work for the degrees master of science, master of education, certificate of advanced studies, and doctor of philosophy with a major in education. ELPS also offers minor work to students majoring in other fields of study. At the master's level, students may specialize in educational administration; higher education; and research and evaluation. Interested students should consult the specific program area for master's degree information related to that program.

Students may complete the Ph.D. with a major in education and a specialization in educational leadership with emphasis in either educational administration or higher education. Specific information about the requirements of the Ph.D. degree is available from the departmental office or on the web ([www.elps.hs.iastate.edu/elpsdoc.htm](http://www.elps.hs.iastate.edu/elpsdoc.htm)).

The following information refers only to the Ph.D. program:

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisite to major graduate work in educational leadership is completion of an undergraduate degree with coursework appropriate to the planned specialization, and evidence that the student ranks above average in scholastic achievement and promise of professional competence. In addition it is preferred that students complete a master's degree and 3-5 years of professional experience.

**Learning Opportunities:** Doctoral students in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies will complete seminars, laboratory experiences, field experiences, independent research, and a capstone experience course. In addition to the common experiences noted above, students will each select an intellectual content area that will prepare them to work in the setting of their choice.

**Careers:** Graduates of the doctoral program are prepared to serve as leaders in various educational settings, including school administration, community colleges, public and private colleges and universities, and public and private educational agencies.

**Outcomes:** Graduates of the Ph.D. program, regardless of the emphasis chosen, possess skills and knowledge related to five core domains: leadership, educational research, communication, educational evaluation, and educational foundations. By the time of graduation, students will demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge to:

- Work effectively with individuals and groups.
- Engage in ethical decision-making and management of resources to accomplish goals.
- Engage in scholarly inquiry.
- Express ideas clearly, both orally and in writing.
- Articulate their values, beliefs, and Philosophy of life.
- Relate sensitively to individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Use the principles of program evaluation and assessment intelligently.
- Have a clear understanding of the foundations of education, grounding their work in theory and Philosophy.
- Articulate the concepts, theories, and practices related to the educational content area emphasized in their studies.

**Other Related Programs:** Other graduate programs related to education (including Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies) may be more suited to the interests of potential students on the basis of previous education and experiences as well as future plans and needs. Potential students should refer to programs in the Departments of Agricultural Education and Studies, Curriculum and Instruction, Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Studies, Kinesiology, and Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, or to graduate level course offerings within the other departments, to determine if these offerings may be more closely matched with their career interests.

The following information refers only to the masters level programs:

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisite to major graduate work in educational leadership is completion of an undergraduate degree with coursework appropriate to the planned specialization, and evidence that the student ranks above average in scholastic achievement and promise of professional competence.

### Educational Administration (EdAdm)

**Degrees and Certificates:** Several programs are offered: (1) master of science degree, with thesis or creative component, in elementary or secondary school administration; (2) master of education practitioner; (3) advanced study leading to principal's license; (4) certificate of advanced studies providing post-master's training for superintendency licensure; and (5) doctor of philosophy with major in education and specialization in educational leadership. Courses are scheduled with consideration for cohort-collegial teams or groups.

**Emphasis:** The Educational Administration Program places dual emphasis on preparation of professional educational administrators and on the academic/scholarly aspects of educational leadership and management.

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisite to major graduate work in educational leadership is completion of an undergraduate degree with coursework appropriate to the planned specialization, and evidence that the student ranks above average in scholastic achievement and promise of professional competence.

**Learning Opportunities:** Students will complete courses, laboratory experiences, field experiences, and independent research so that they can effectively serve in leadership roles.

**Careers:** Graduates of Master's Degree and Certificate of Advanced Study Programs in Educational Administration are prepared for leadership roles in Pre K-12 school districts and education agencies, typically as building-level principals, assistant principals, curriculum directors, and central office administrators.

Doctoral graduates are prepared for PreK-12 leadership roles and academic or leadership positions in higher education.

Outcomes: Graduates of the Certificate of Advanced Studies Program will possess administrative and leadership skills necessary for the superintendency and central office administration. By the time of graduation, students will demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge to:

- Serve as visionary leaders, with effective skills in curricular and instructional leadership.
- Work effectively with individuals and groups, both within the district and community, to create and sustain a positive learning culture.
- Engage in ethical decision-making and effective management of human, material, and financial resources to accomplish district goals.
- Express ideas clearly to various publics, both orally and in writing.
- Articulate their values, beliefs, and Philosophies of education.
- Relate sensitively to individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Access and utilize research information and technology to assist with organizational improvement.
- Translate educational administration concepts and theories into sound management and leadership practices.

Graduates of the Master's Program with a specialization in educational administration and the Principal Licensure Program possess administrative and leadership skills necessary for PreK-12 building-level leadership roles. Upon program completion, each student will possess the knowledge and skills to:

- Work effectively with all members of the school community to create a shared vision of learning, which builds upon the formation of a shared understanding of the purposes of schooling in a pluralistic society.
- Demonstrate effective skills in collaborative instructional leadership, including an understanding of curriculum standards, principles of effective teaching practices, and effective assessment practices that lead to improved student learning.
- Implement a system of shared governance and empower faculty, staff, students, and families in the school improvement process.
- Create and sustain a safe and caring school culture that values diversity and maintains a commitment to equity in school practices.
- Engage in ethical and moral leadership practices and the effective management of human, material, and financial resources to accomplish school goals.
- Work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders in responding to school needs and providing community resources to support the learning process.
- Access research and use data to inform teaching and learning practices and support the process of continuous improvement.
- Apply various technologies to support and enhance administrative and instructional purposes.
- Use leadership skills to transform the school into a learning community that promotes change and sustains school improvement initiatives.
- Engage all members of the school community in critical inquiry and reflection, to promote the belief that learning is a lifelong endeavor for every individual.

Graduates of the Ph.D. Program with a specialization in educational administration will possess skills and knowledge related to the six core domains: leadership, educational research, communication, educational evaluation, educational foundations, and educational technology. By the time of graduation, students will demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge for those outcomes as listed under the ELPS Ph.D. program outcomes.