

# Educational Leadership and Policy Studies



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

MORGRIDGE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



The Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program prepares courageous, visionary, and transformative leaders in educational settings at all levels of the education system. To achieve this, we offer intensive, integrated academic and field-based experiences and competency-based learning. Our students create learning communities that foster academic achievement and optimal growth and development for all learners.

Our students focus on leadership, policy studies, and research that are relevant and appropriate for meeting today's educational challenges.

All of our programs use a cohort structure to build learning communities and professional networks. We partner with individuals, schools, and districts to build leadership capacity and improve diverse educational contexts.

## Available Degrees

### MA

The MA in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) is designed to prepare students to assume leadership roles in elementary and secondary educational settings. The degree builds upon the coursework required for our two certificates: the Executive Leadership for Successful Schools (ELSS) or Ritchie Program for School Leaders (Ritchie).

**Requirements** 45–47 credit hours that consist of the district-partnered Ritchie or ELSS program certificate (30–32 credit hours) plus 15 credit hours and the completion of an Action Research Capstone Project

**Completion** 1.5 years

### EdD

This EdD degree offers several field-based options for doctoral level research that address important issues of practice. Applicants must hold a Master's degree in an education-related field and have completed principal, teacher-leadership, or other formal leadership preparation.

**Requirements** 65 credit hours and completion of Doctoral Research Project

**Completion** 3 to 7 years



## Linking Innovative Classroom Knowledge With Real World Experiences

The Morgridge College of Education is one of the premier colleges of education in the country, preparing students for meaningful careers in education, psychology, information science, and research.

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## Certificate

The Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program offers two certificate models that lead to recommendation for Colorado principal licensure: the Ritchie Program for School Leaders (Ritchie) and the Executive Leadership for Successful Schools (ELSS). Both models offer competency-based learning that is individualized to the leadership needs of the aspiring leader and the needs of schools.

Ritchie is a district partnership model (Denver Public Schools or Adams Five Star School District).

ELSS is offered as a district partnership (Aurora Public Schools), regional or organizational partnership (Mountain and Teach for America) or DU campus based model.

Ritchie: 32 credit hour in-person delivery model with 30 weekly sessions during the academic year and 6 full-day sessions (including a 3-day retreat) in the summer. The location of the in-person sessions is within the partner district.

300-hour project-based internship integrated with coursework and supported by a mentor principal. The internship for the DPS Ritchie cohort is a paid, full-time position with a district approved mentor principal.

## Requirements

ELSS: 30 credit hour hybrid delivery model with 1-3 in-person Saturday sessions per quarter and weekly online interactions within a cohort. The location of the in-person sessions varies according to cohort (DU campus or in a regional or district location).

300-hour project-based internship integrated with coursework and supported by a mentor principal

## Completion

1 year

## PhD

The PhD program is designed for individuals interested in generating theory and acquiring advanced research skills. Students begin their doctoral studies with colleagues in the EdD program for two years of coursework and continue on for a third year of coursework consisting of advanced research methodology and a specialized focus of study.

## Requirements

90 quarter credit hours and completion of a traditional dissertation

## Completion

4-7 years



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