Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, M.A.

Schools, Culture, and Society

The Master of Arts program in educational policy and leadership studies with a schools, culture, and society subprogram requires a minimum of 32 s.h. of graduate credit and is offered without thesis, although a thesis option is available. Students must earn a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The program develops students’ ability to analyze the influence of social and historical factors that frame contemporary issues in education. Students complete at least 21 s.h. in schools, culture, and society courses in two disciplinary areas: sociology and history. They earn 12 s.h. in one of the disciplinary areas and 9 s.h. in the other area. The remaining 11 s.h. of coursework must be in a concentration area outside the schools, culture, and society disciplinary areas appropriate to the student’s career and academic goals.

Students must satisfactorily complete a six-hour comprehensive examination covering their disciplinary concentration area and other two areas of study. Alternately, students may choose to write a thesis. The examining committee may elect to hold an oral examination after the exam.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College. A personal interview with one or more members of the program’s faculty is recommended. Undergraduate and/or graduate emphases in education, sociology, and the humanities (philosophy, history, and so forth) provide good background for graduate study of schools, culture, and society, although other emphases also may be useful.

Applicants must submit a personal statement explaining their professional goals, experiences, and research plans; undergraduate and graduate grade-point averages; undergraduate and graduate transcripts; three letters of recommendation; a résumé; and scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test (however, the GRE requirement has been suspended for the 2021-22 admissions cycle). Application deadline is February 15 for admission the following fall.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For specific score requirements, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.