Overview

Develop the competencies you need to successfully and ethically lead higher education institutions with a Ph.D. in higher education leadership. Send a clear message to your current employer that you are committed to the mission of your institution, and gain skills that can be applied immediately to the challenges you face as a professional through a program that:

• Develops the competencies you need to effectively lead higher education institutions.
• Builds your research knowledge and skills, enabling you to expand the knowledge base related to higher education organizations, practice, and outcomes.
• Instills and reinforces a commitment to the crucial engagement of diversity.
• Explores ways to strengthen a commitment to access, learning, institutional mission, quality, and educational outcomes.

Curriculum

With an emphasis on applied knowledge and a specific focus on universities and colleges, you learn from renowned faculty and experienced higher education administration professionals.

Coursework:

• Provides a comprehensive doctoral curriculum that develops the competencies needed to successfully and ethically lead higher education institutions
• Develops research knowledge and skills to enable practitioners and administrators to become scholars/practitioners who expand the knowledge base related to higher education organizations, practice, and outcomes
• Instills and/or reinforces a commitment to the crucial engagement of diversity
• Explores ways to strengthen a commitment to access, learning, institutional mission, quality, and educational outcomes

Contact

(970) 492-4898
online.colostate.edu/contact

Delivery

Online and on campus

Credits

60 credits

Tuition

$899 per credit
• Includes Student Services
• Fees assessed separately
• Financial aid is available; eligibility determined on an individual basis

Time frame

Can be completed in 5 years

Completion requirements

• A minimum of 30 credits of higher education administrative curriculum
• A minimum of 30 credits of research
• Comprehensive exams, both written and oral
• Juried publication submission or presentation
• Dissertation

More info

online.colostate.edu/degrees/higher-education-leadership-phd
Application Deadline
Summer semester (fall and spring admission are not available): March 1

1 Review Admission Requirements

- Master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
- At least two years of professional work experience in a higher education institution setting or at least two years of professional work experience within an organization that is engaged in work related to higher education
- The GRE scores are required for applicants that do not have a final undergraduate GPA and a master's-level GPA of at least 3.00.

2 Prepare Application Materials

- Statement of purpose, 2-3 pages
  » What factors or experiences have led you to seek a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Colorado State University?
  » Describe your background and significant personal and professional experiences related to higher education leadership.
  » How do you see this program furthering your professional aspirations?
  » Applicants should demonstrate research interests that are compatible with the CSU School of Education faculty. Explain your research interests and how your interests may be compatible with our current School of Education faculty.
  » The values statement within the College of Health and Human Science states, “We are committed to principles of equity and inclusive excellence in all that we do.” In what ways do you exemplify this statement in your past and/or current professional and/or personal work?
- Resume or vita
  » Record of collegiate work, including names of institutions, periods of attendance, and degrees earned.
  » Record of all professional employment including dates of service (including military).
  » List of publications, exhibitions, awards, or other recognitions.
  » List of service activities, including professional, community, and charitable activities.
- Three letters of recommendation
  Three professional recommendations are required. Recommenders should be able to speak to your current leadership ability and your ability to do doctoral work. You will provide information about your recommenders in the online application. CSU will contact them with instructions and a link to a secure form they will submit on your behalf.

3 Complete Online Application

Complete the online graduate application and pay the nonrefundable application processing fee (payable online). As soon as you have completed the required information, please submit your application. You do not need to wait for recommendations to move your application forward.
- Select “Educ & Hum Res Studies PhD/Higher Educ Leadership – Distance” when choosing the program of study.

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4 Request Transcripts

Request one official transcript of all collegiate work completed from every institution attended, whether or not you received a degree from those institutions. Transcripts from Colorado State University are not required. Official transcripts can either be mailed in or sent as e-transcripts.

Send e-transcripts to: gradadmissions@colostate.edu

Send paper copies to:
Graduate Admissions
Colorado State University – Office of Admissions
1062 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062

5 Submit Test Scores

GRE scores are required for applicants who do not have both a cumulative undergraduate GPA and a cumulative masters/professional level GPA of at least 3.00. Cumulative GPAs are calculated using all undergraduate credits leading to completion of a bachelor’s degree and all graduate-level credits leading to completion of a master’s degree or terminal degree. If both GPAs are above 3.00, GRE scores are not required. Submit official GRE General Test scores through the Educational Testing Service (select institution code: 4075, leave the department code blank). Scores are typically received by the University 4-6 weeks after your testing date.

• All three sections — verbal, quantitative, and analytical — must be submitted. Photocopies are not accepted.
• A GRE Preparation course is available face-to-face and online through CSU.

Check Your Application Status

View your application status at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or to check on updates. Once your complete application, including supporting materials, is received, the department admission committee will review your application and promptly notify you of their decision.

International Students

See website for test score and transcript requirements.