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

Delivery
Online and on campus

Credits
60 credits

Tuition
$926 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

Contact
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Student Success Coach
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(970) 491-2665
Application Deadline
Summer semester (Fall and spring admission is not available): December 1

1 Review Admission Requirements

- Master’s degree from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution or a CSU-recognized international institution is required
- 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
- A minimum 3.00 GPA from master’s level coursework is required
- GRE scores are required for applicants that do not have a cumulative undergraduate GPA and a cumulative master’s-level GPA of at least 3.00. Each GPA is calculated separately; if either is below 3.00, official GRE scores are required.

2 Prepare Application Materials

- **Statement of purpose**
  Compose a 2-3 page Statement of Purpose regarding your personal and professional interests and goals in higher education. How will this Ph.D. program advance your professional and personal goals? How have your experiences influenced your views of equity and inclusive excellence in higher education, which are two central values to the CSU College of Health and Human Sciences? Your essay may address the following:
  - What factors or experiences have led you to seek a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Colorado State University?
  - Tell us about your background and significant personal and professional experiences related to higher education leadership and your aspirations.
  - Describe your goals as a scholar/scholar-practitioner. How do they align with faculty within the School of Education, and particularly within the Higher Education Leadership Ph.D. program?

- **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 complete doctoral work, research and writing, and potential as a research scholar and/or scholar-practitioner. 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 “Education and Human Resource Studies / Higher Education Leadership (Ph.D). - Distance” when choosing the program of study.
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 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.

Interviews

• The admission committee may request an interview. Interviews are by invitation only and will be conducted using video conference technology.
• Faculty will select applicants to advance to the interview state around mid-January.

Writing Sample

If invited to interview, applicants will be required to submit a research or scholarly paper. They will have two weeks to write and electronically submit the paper. This requirement is intended to provide the faculty with critical information on the applicants’ ability to frame, research/engage in inquiry, analyze, and offer a persuasive and cohesive written account on a current higher education issue of each applicant’s choosing.

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.