

# Higher Education Leadership

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Education and Human Resource Studies  
– Higher Education Leadership Specialization



## 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:

- Instills and reinforces a commitment to crucial engagement of diversity and equity by addressing issues of privilege and oppression.
- Develops research knowledge and skills that enable students to become scholar-practitioners and expand their knowledge about higher education organizations, practice, and outcomes.
- Cultivates the key competencies needed to be a successful and ethical higher education leader and change agent.

## 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

## 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

## 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

## More info

[online.colostate.edu/degrees/higher-education-leadership-phd](https://online.colostate.edu/degrees/higher-education-leadership-phd)

## Contact

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# How to Apply

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## 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
- A minimum of two years of professional work experience related to higher education, prior to applying to the program is required for admission
- A minimum 3.00 GPA from master's level coursework is required
- GRE scores are not required

Meeting the minimum requirements does not ensure admission. Admission will be primarily guided by the evaluation of each applicant's fit with the program mission and within the context of developing each incoming cohort's teaching and learning community, based on application materials (i.e., personal statement, professional experiences, recommendation letters, academic transcripts, and interviews with finalists.)

### 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?
  - » 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 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. Your application will not be reviewed until it is complete and all required materials have been received.

- 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](mailto:gradadmissions@colostate.edu)

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

## 5 Interview and Writing Sample

### 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.