SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

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The School of Leadership and Education Sciences offers graduate programs in three departments: Leadership Studies, Learning and Teaching, and Counseling & Marital and Family Therapy. Our degree and credential programs prepare professionals to lead and serve in many different sectors of society as administrators, executives, therapists, professors, counselors, teachers, and educators. Our programs have met the high standards established by the following accrediting bodies: Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, Commission for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Education Programs, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Council for Exceptional Children, and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

At the graduate level, the School of Leadership and Education Sciences offers a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies (MA), Master of Arts in Higher Education Leadership (MA), Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership and Management (MA), Master of Education (MEd), Master of Arts in Counseling (MA), Master of Arts in Marital and Family Therapy (MA), and a Doctorate in Leadership Studies (PhD). Please refer to subsequent pages for more information regarding these programs.

The School of Leadership and Education Sciences also offers credentials for teachers, counselors, administrators, and education specialists. Please contact the School of Leadership and Education Sciences’ Credential Analyst for more information.

In addition, the School of Leadership and Education Sciences offers undergraduates the opportunity to enroll in the Combined BA/MEd Teacher Education Program (CTEP), Education minor, Leadership Studies minor, Nonprofit Social Enterprise & Philanthropy minor, Naval Sciences minor, Army ROTC program, Nonprofit Leadership and Management certificate program, and several special courses designed to meet the needs and interests of all undergraduates. Please refer to the current Undergraduate Course Catalog for more information regarding these programs.

**Vision Statement**

We believe that education for human service must have as its foundation a vision of enhancing human dignity and the quality of life. To do so, human service professionals must focus on moral perspectives in their professional and community lives. The faculty and staff of the School of Leadership and Education Sciences seek to impart this vision to our students.

**Mission Statement**

It is our responsibility to prepare students with the professional knowledge, skills, and ethical perspectives they will need for effective leadership and practice in a diverse society. We seek to become, and encourage our students to become, life-long learners engaged in scholarly inquiry, research, and professional development. We value professional and community service and encourage such service by our students.

To implement our mission, the faculty enriches all programs and course offerings with the values, concepts, and themes that we believe will help students become ethical, civic-minded, and committed leaders in their chosen fields.

**Internationalization Experience Requirement**

School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) students are required to complete an international experience to graduate. SOLES recognizes that students are living in a global society and they need to understand how other countries and cultures approach the issues and concepts in their program areas. The internationalization experience will strengthen students in their current lives and future careers. Each program has identified specific ways in which its students can meet the internationalization requirement, including participation in a global study course offered through the SOLES Global Center. Students should check with their respective program/department for more information on options for satisfying the SOLES International Experience Requirement. Please note: Beginning in Summer 2011, courses with an “I” designation following the course number are courses that satisfy this requirement.

**Centers and Institutes**

- Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research
- Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL)
- Character Education Resource Center
- Compass Family Center
- Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA)
- Global Center
- Hansen Summer Institute
- Institute for Entrepreneurship in Education
- Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research
- Leadership Institute
- Manchester Family Child Development Center (MFCDC)
- Mobile Technology Learning Center (MTLC)

**Academic Degree Programs, Credentials and Certificates**

**Doctoral Degree**

The School of Leadership and Education Sciences offers one Doctor of Philosophy degree in Leadership Studies. The degree requires the successful completion of a dissertation. This is a 54-unit program that allows students to develop their chosen career goals.

**Master’s Degrees**

The master’s programs in SOLES prepare qualified professional personnel in education and related areas through a sequence of graduate work that includes field and laboratory experiences as well as coursework. The School of Leadership and Education Sciences grants two master’s degrees: the Master of Arts (MA) and the Master of Education (MEd). Each program requires a specified minimum number of graduate credits and most require the successful completion of an
action research project, a comprehensive examination, a culminating curriculum project, thesis, or a portfolio. There is no foreign language requirement.

**Credential Programs**
USD’s credential programs are approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Students should see their advisors for specific requirements regarding each credential. It is possible to combine credential programs with a degree program. Students should check with their respective program/department for more information. All PK-12 education programs in SOLES are accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

**Certificate Programs**
SOLES offers a variety of certificate programs designed to enhance students’ professional learning. Please see your academic advisor or program director for details about certificates currently being offered.

**Transfer of Credit**
Students may transfer up to six appropriate master’s-level units taken at an accredited and approved institution within the past five years into a 30-44 unit program, up to nine units into a program requiring 45 or more units, and up to 12 units into a PhD program, with the approval of the advisor and program director/department chair, Associate Dean and clearance by the Office of the Registrar.

**Reservation of the Right to Modify**
Every effort has been made to provide current and accurate information in the description of doctoral, master’s degree and credential programs. However, we reserve the right to change program requirements. Students should confer with their advisors and the credential analyst to ensure progress toward their degrees and/or credentials.