



College of Education
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

Master of Education (M.Ed.) Educational Leadership

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND HANDBOOK

NEVADA LEADS



University of Nevada, Reno



Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To GraduationSM

College of Education
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ABOUT US



The Reno Area

Channeling the crystal waters of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River runs leisurely through downtown Reno. Numerous mountain ranges rise ruggedly from the desert basin, providing stunning views and unmatched sunsets.

The University

- **Boasts a fitness facility of more than 108,000 square feet**
- **Offers affordable, top-tier education**
- **Houses one of nation's most technologically advanced libraries**
- **Provides students the opportunity to work closely with research faculty and professionals**

As Nevada's flagship land-grant institution, the University has been instrumental in the history of the nation's fastest-growing state. One of the top 150 research universities in the country, the University of Nevada, Reno is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, the official accrediting agency of most Western states.

The University of Nevada, Reno was founded in 1874 as the State University of Nevada in Elko, Nevada, about 300 miles northeast of its present-day campus in Reno. The site for the university preparatory school in eastern Nevada (where no state institutions had previously been located) proved to be impractical, as nearly half of the state's residents lived in the Reno-Carson City area. In 1885, the legislature approved the move of the University from Elko to Reno.

In the last 35 years, the University has met the challenges of leadership in what is now the fastest-growing state in the country, with student enrollment rising to more than 21,000 in fall 2016. Most recently, the university replaced the Jot Travis Student Union with the Joe Crowley Student Union, one of the most transformational buildings ever built on campus. This 167,000-square-foot, "green" environmentally friendly facility signals a shift in campus expansion, offering the campus and community a new

centrally located "front door" to the University from Virginia Street. In 2008, one of the nation's most technologically advanced libraries, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, opened next to the Crowley Student Union, further signaling the campus' move north. In 2016, the new 78,000 square foot William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center opened to provide a central building for all student services and in 2017 the university broke ground for a new arts center. The university's most recent building addition is the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center. The new fitness facility is more than 108,000 square feet with three basketball gymnasiums, areas for weightlifting, cardio training, mind-body training, a fitness staircase, 1/8th mile running track and a multitude of new fitness classes and activities.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an affordable Tier One university. Our students pay 80 percent less than the average Tier One institution, making UNR a best buy amongst Tier One universities. Unlike many public research universities, the University of Nevada, Reno offers its students the chance to get up close and personal with highly credentialed faculty, researchers and professionals. Ph.D. professors regularly teach undergraduate students and invite them to research labs or internships. Graduate students work closely with professors on major research projects while developing their own research skills and projects. UNR Faculty are world renown, respected members of their fields and often bring home research and career achievement awards.

Along with its academic benefits, the University of Nevada, Reno is a beautiful campus located in one of the most picturesque areas of the country. From the 100-year-old, elm tree-lined Jeffersonian quad to the state-of-the-art Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, the campus possesses historic beauty and digital convenience alike. Nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada, the city of Reno is closer to cities such as Sacramento and San Francisco than Las Vegas. In contrast to Las Vegas, Reno offers its residents an invigorating taste of all four seasons.

Channeling the crystal waters of Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River runs leisurely through downtown Reno. Numerous mountain ranges rise ruggedly from the desert basin, providing stunning views and unmatched sunsets. Located on the border between the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada, Reno has been dubbed "America's Adventure Place" for its impressive and diverse geographic offerings. With crystal clear Lake Tahoe 30 minutes to the west, the barren Black Rock Desert to the northeast, and Yosemite a short road trip to the southwest, Reno is a great destination for nature lovers and adrenaline junkies alike.

Reno offers a favorable quality of life that has been recognized by numerous national sources, including *Forbes* magazine. Reno's population enjoys an array of cultural activities, including museums, numerous theatre companies, a symphony, ballet and opera. There are several major venues for concerts, sporting events and other live performances, including the Lawlor Events Center on campus and the Reno Events Center, located less than a 10-minute walk from campus. In recent years, Reno has experienced a Bohemian cultural renaissance, with a growing arts community, increasing international flavor and the annual counterculture festival, Burning Man.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information concerning the policies and procedures required to obtain a Master of Education in Educational Leadership at the University of Nevada, Reno. The handbook, used in conjunction with the University of Nevada General Catalog, is designed to provide guidance and answers to frequently asked questions.

NEVADA LEADS OVERVIEW



Nevada Leads is an innovative, university-district partnership created to prepare cohorts of exceptional teachers for educational leadership positions. Guided by experienced University faculty and principal mentors, Nevada Leads cohorts will earn their M.Ed. in Educational Leadership through participation in an intensive, experiential program of study aligned to the 2015 Professional Standards for Educational Leaders. The accompanying internship will provide candidates with real world school-based leadership experiences focused on the skills and dispositions needed to serve as change agents and advocates for equity in 21st century schools.

Admission Procedures

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is committed to providing a place of work and learning free of discrimination on the basis of a person's age, disability, whether actual or perceived by others (including service-connected disabilities), gender (including pregnancy related conditions), military status or military obligations, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, national origin, race, or religion. Where discrimination is found to have occurred, the NSHE will act to stop the discrimination, to prevent its recurrence, and to discipline those responsible. No employee or student, either in the workplace or in the academic environment, should be subject to discrimination (NSHE Policy Against Discrimination and Sexual Harassment, Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13).

Application to the program is made through the Graduate School of the University of Nevada, Reno. Nevada Leads follows a cohort model, so applications are considered in the fall semester only. Cohorts begin coursework each spring.

1. Apply for admission to the Graduate School. Application must be made on-line at <http://www.unr.edu/grad/admissions>. Select "Educational Leadership M.Ed." as your major.

- a. To complete the application, you will need 3 letters of recommendation that speak to your potential for success both as a graduate student and as an educational administrator. It is recommended that one letter be from an immediate supervisor, one from a school district officer or university administrator, and one from a university professor. Appropriate variations are acceptable. [These letters should be submitted electronically through the Graduate School's confidential process as part of that application.]
- b. A statement of interest in the program.
- c. A written sample of work.
- d. Although not required, applicants may submit additional information such as a vita that may provide relevant information for assessing professional promise.

Admission Criteria

Most applicants to the M.Ed. program surpass the minimum requirements established by the Graduate School (<http://www.unr.edu/grad/>). Full admission is based on the following criteria:

1. academic ability
2. research and writing skills
3. professional promise
4. teaching and leadership experience
5. the collective professional judgment of the Nevada Leads faculty

Use of these criteria provides both our program and the applicant with an indication of probable success in the program.



NEVADA LEADS COURSEWORK (37 CREDITS)

Course	Title	Sequence & Year in Program	Credits
EL 700	Basic Principles of Educational Administration	Spring 1	3
EL 703	Administration and Curriculum Improvement	Spring 1	3
EL 747	Research Analysis and Development	Summer 1	3
EL 763	Change Strategies	Summer 1	3
EL 746	Data Based Decision Making	Fall 1	3
EL 715	Supervision and Evaluation of Teaching	Fall 1	3
EL 701	Administration of School Staff Personnel	Spring 2	3
EL 726	School Business Management	Spring 2	3
EL 735	The Law of Public Education I	Summer 2	3
EL 734	Special Education Law	Fall 2	3
EL 795	Comprehensive Examination	Fall 2	1
EL 798	Internship	1 credit each semester, including both summers	6
Total			37

Nevada Leads is a cohort model, meaning that it is designed so that admitted students begin and progress through the program in the same order and at the same pace. The sequence of coursework aligns with internship experiences that will occur during each term. The program is designed to be completed in 2 years, beginning each spring semester so that students will graduate in time for the next academic year's hiring cycle.

Other Requirements

Advisory/Examining Committee: Once accepted into the Master's program, the student and advisor shall organize an advisory/examining committee. The committee consists of three members of the graduate faculty - two from Educational Leadership and one from the College of Education or from the University at large. The primary purpose of the committee is to approve the program of study and to provide advisement.

Program of Study: The program of study form must be submitted before 12 credits of course work have been completed. This form can be obtained online from the Graduate School.

Evaluation Criteria: In addition to completing each course with a grade of C or better and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, students must complete a culminating experience during the final semester, must take the internship alongside their coursework, and must take and pass the Praxis II [Educational Leadership: Administration and Supervision (5412)]. This examination is offered by ETS testing centers.

Taskstream by Watermark: Once accepted into Nevada Leads, students must purchase a Taskstream by Watermark account and complete a PSEL self-assessment at several points throughout the program.

Endorsement Requirements

The College of Education does not issue endorsements on a teaching license. However, the Nevada Leads program was designed to meet the Nevada Department of Education's requirements for a K-12 Endorsement as Administrator of a School.

NEVADA LEADS

LEADERSHIP

EL Program Faculty (P-12 Leadership)

Dr. Jafeth Sanchez – Ph.D., 2010; University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Cristina Lash, Ph.D., Stanford University

Dr. Bill Thornton – Ph.D., 1975; University of Kansas

Dr. Deborah Verstegen – Ph.D., 1983; University of Wisconsin – Madison

Adjunct Co-Instructors*

Susan Denning

Kevin Carroll

Melissa Olsen

Dr. Salwa Zaki

Megan Waugh

Heidi Gavrilles

Laura Petersen

Dr. Shelley Kresyman

*Adjunct co-instructors may vary across the program

Cohort I Washoe County School District Principal Mentors

Kelly Humphreys, Rita Cannan Elementary School

Kevin Carroll, Sparks High School

Melissa Olsen, Truckee Meadows Community College High School

Brandon Bringhurst, Mendive Middle School

Sara Cunningham, Donner Springs Elementary School

Jeana Curtis, North Valleys High School

Joe Ernst, Anderson Elementary School
Yuen Fong, Libby Booth Elementary School
Heidi Gavrilles, Mathews Elementary
Gina Leonhard, Shaw Middle School
Bruce Meissner, Archie Clayton Pre-AP Academy
Laura Petersen, Dilworth STEM Academy
Megan Waugh, Diedrichsen Elementary

Nevada Leads Design Team

Dr. Salwa Zaki – Ed.D., 2007; University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Dr. Melissa Burnham – Ph.D., 2002; University of California, Davis
Dr. Jafeth Sanchez – Ph.D., 2010; University of Nevada, Reno
Pati Falk – M.Ed., 1991; University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Susan Denning – M.Ed.

