



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

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Master of Arts in Leadership Studies



SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

### Contact Information

**For admissions and general program information:**

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## Master of Arts in Leadership Studies



### Program Overview

The Master of Arts degree in Leadership Studies is a 36-unit program designed for students preparing for leadership positions in a broad variety of organizational settings, including, but not limited to: consulting firms; human resource departments; nonprofit agencies; colleges and universities; and public and private K-12 schools.

The focus of the master's degree is on developing knowledgeable, ethical, caring and inclusive leaders for a diverse and changing society. We prepare "practitioner-scholars" to make significant contributions in a variety of organizational settings. We aspire to enhance students' capacity to lead in ways that are creative, caring and inspirational.

Students develop their understanding of leadership by studying leadership theories, research, ethics, and organizational change, and by examining best practices. The program offers candidates the opportunity to study leadership theory and practice and apply leadership concepts and principles to their personal and professional roles and responsibilities.

This degree offers flexibility for students to develop a unique area of specialization. In consultation with their advisors, students will design an 18-unit course sequence to meet their individual professional goals and educational interests. Students may choose from courses in any graduate program in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES) or other graduate level courses from the other colleges and schools within the University of San Diego.

### Distinguishing Features

- International requirement with opportunities for study abroad
- Classroom environments that engage a broad range of human capabilities and have a transformative effect on students while enhancing their leadership skills and abilities
- Development of a distinctive character and value system which emphasizes meaning, purpose, generosity, authenticity, ethical behavior and initiative taking
- Small class size and personalized attention from dedicated faculty
- Applied learning opportunities from the SOLES institutes and centers:
  - Leadership Institute
  - Center for Education Policy and Law (CEPAL)
  - Institute for Nonprofit Education and Research
  - Educational Leadership Development Academy (ELDA)
- SOLES Global Center

### Program Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Leadership Studies consists of 36 units in the following areas:

#### Leadership Component (12 units)

EDLD 550	Leadership Theory and Practice	3 units
EDLD 551	Human Relations for Leaders	3 units
EDLD 555	Leadership and Ethics	3 units
EDLD 559	Leadership and Organizational Change	3 units

#### Research Component (3 units)

EDLD 549	Research Design and Methodology for Leaders	3 units
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#### Internship (3 units)

EDLD 590	Leadership Internship M.A.	3 units
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#### Area of Specialization/Electives (18 units)

All 18 units are chosen in consultation with an advisor and candidates may select graduate courses offered from the other colleges and schools within the University of San Diego.

#### Exit Requirement

The exit requirement may consist of a portfolio, action research project/thesis or traditional thesis, depending on area of focus.

#### International Experience

Students are required to include an International Leadership Experience within their program of study. Visit our Global Center or faculty advisor for more information regarding International Education Programs.

### Admission Requirements

While applicants are evaluated based on a holistic method, the successful candidate for the program will demonstrate his or her candidacy in the following manner:

- Completed online USD application, available at [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php)
- College or university transcripts. Applicants must submit one official sealed transcript from every college or university attended.
- Three professional letters of recommendation from supervisors, employers or professors.
- Statement of purpose
- Resume
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate coursework
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required, however applicants at or near the minimum GPA may choose to submit GRE General Test scores to strengthen their application.

#### Application Deadline: March 1st

The Master of Arts in Leadership Studies only accepts students for the fall term. Students admitted for the fall semester may begin coursework the preceding summer.

#### Financial Aid

Students may be eligible to apply for additional scholarships and financial aid through SOLES. To learn more about the opportunities available, please visit [www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/financialaid).

#### Additional Requirements for International Students

- Transcripts must be issued in English by the academic institution or must be officially translated by an approved agency. Applicants are required to have their foreign transcripts evaluated by an independent credential evaluation service. Applicants may contact The International Education Research Foundation, Inc. and request a Detail Report, or World Education Services and request a Course-by-Course Report.
- Submit the official results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Minimum requirements are 83 (internet-based), 237 (computer-based), or 580 (paper-based).
- Submit Certification of Finances Form and supporting documents. Visit [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/international/](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/international/).

