



**SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES**

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492



**Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership  
and Management**



**SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATION SCIENCES**

**Contact Information**

**For admissions and general program information:**

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[www.sandiego.edu/soles/admissions](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/admissions)

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## Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership and Management



### Program Overview

Designed by, for and with local practitioners, the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership and Management is an integrated course of study melding state-of-the-art leadership theory with cutting-edge management models, strategies and tools designed to teach professionals how to create high-performance nonprofit organizations. Students learn new ways of conceptualizing their work through their studies with expert practitioner faculty and top academicians from the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences (SOLES).

The curriculum is focused on applied learning which facilitates the transfer of knowledge from theory to practice. Through the process of conducting and producing organizational audits, market research and marketing plans, development plans, legislative campaigns, designing research-based programs and evaluation models, and capital campaign feasibility studies, students learn how to be politically and technically expert in bringing best practices to nonprofit organizations. The resulting products ultimately comprise a portfolio illustrating the students' proficiency in a number of key areas.

The program is designed for working professionals who have an interest in developing skills in an academically rigorous setting. As such, classes are held during evening hours and on select weekends. A student may complete the degree in two years through year-round studies or undertake their studies at a slower pace.

### Distinguishing Features

- Renowned practitioner and academic faculty who live the art and science of nonprofit management
- A student body predominated by nonprofit professionals
- Students who reflect the diversity of San Diego and its nonprofit community
- Students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership and Management who are employed by 501 (c) (3) organizations receive a deeply discounted tuition rate and are eligible for specially designated practitioner scholarships.

- 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).
- A focus on applied learning where concepts learned in the classroom come to life. Each student completes 10 community benefit products during the degree that are modestly valued at \$50,000.
- Ongoing public education events such as the Annual Nonprofit Governance Symposium and regular community events that are designed to propagate a culture of excellence throughout the greater nonprofit community
- A growing PhD specialization in Nonprofit/Philanthropic Leadership and Management
- The Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research, which provides access to and analysis of various types of nonprofit data, conducts research on the sector, analyzes funding, public policy and environmental trends affecting nonprofits and provides program evaluation services
- One active advisory board that oversees the academic program and research center

### Program Curriculum

The SOLES faculty enrich all programs and course offerings with the values, concepts and themes that will help students become ethical, civic-minded and committed leaders in their chosen fields. To complete the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Leadership and Management, candidates complete 36 graduate units.

#### Required Courses (32 units)

EDLD 501	Nonprofit Sector and Management Fundamentals	3 units
EDLD 550	Leadership Theory and Practice	3 units
EDLD 500	Research, Design and Evaluation of Nonprofit Programs	4 units
EDLD 502	Leadership and Ethics	3 units
EDLD 503	Nonprofit Finance	3 units
EDLD 505	Organizational Theory and Change	3 units
EDLD 506	Resource Development and Fundraising	3 units
EDLD 507	Community Organizing and Change	3 units
EDLD 510	Board Management and Leadership	2 units
EDLD 509	Legal Issues for Nonprofit Leaders	1 unit
EDLD 504	Human Relations for Leaders	1 unit
EDLD 511	Strategic Planning and Positioning	3 units

Please note: Students, in consultation with the program director and faculty, may substitute some required courses for electives if competency in a given area can be demonstrated.

#### Electives (select 4 or more units)

EDLD 513	Advocacy Skills and Strategies	2 units
EDLD 517	Capital and Endowment Campaign Planning	2 units
EDLD 516	Related Business Development	2 units
EDLD 512	Beyond Collaboration	1 unit
EDLD 514	Public Speaking	1 unit
EDLD 515	Risk Management	1 unit
EDLD 508	Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations	2 units
EDLD 579	Understanding Bi-National Nonprofits in the U.S.-Mexican Border Region	2 units

SOLES students are required to complete an international experience to graduate.

### 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. Please visit [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/) for form and additional information.

### Admission Requirements

- Submit the Graduate School Admission Application and Statement of Purpose online at [www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/admissions/graduate/application.php). The Statement of Purpose is a 500-word essay answering the following question: What do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the nonprofit sector (either locally or nationally) and how will what you learn in this program help you effectuate change in those areas?
- Submit all college/university transcripts. Applicants must submit one official sealed transcript from every college/university attended. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required in all undergraduate and/or graduate coursework.
- Submit three professional letters of recommendation from current or previous supervisor, board chair, or colleague. Please do not submit personal recommendations.
- Submit a resume.
- If you work for a nonprofit corporation, submit a Memorandum of Understanding signed by your employer stating the degree to which your organization supports your candidacy. This form can be downloaded from [www.sandiego.edu/soles/programs/all\\_degree\\_programs.php?\\_focus=4](http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/programs/all_degree_programs.php?_focus=4).
- A standardized admission test is not required unless the GPA falls considerably below the aforementioned benchmarks.
- Send all supporting application materials to: Office of Graduate Admissions, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492
- Graduate applications are due March 1st.

