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Educational Administration & Leadership

THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



ST. CLOUD STATE
UNIVERSITY
A tradition of excellence and opportunity

Master of Science, Sixth-Year & Specialist

Can you give me some background on St. Cloud State University?



St. Cloud State University was founded in 1869 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The campus displays a blend of classic and modern architecture, and is bordered on one side by the Mississippi River and on the other by the city of St. Cloud. With a population of more than 50,000, St. Cloud is a hub of trade and employment for Central Minnesota. Students have the opportunity to experience a comfortable campus life, enjoy the spectacular lakes and forests of Minnesota, and experience the excitement of Minneapolis and St. Paul, located 70 miles southeast of St. Cloud.

What does St. Cloud State University have to offer a graduate student?

St. Cloud State is a multi-purpose and comprehensive university with about 15,000 students and 700 faculty. Graduate enrollment exceeds 1,500 students. SCSU offers graduate programs in five colleges: Business, Education, Fine Arts and Humanities, Science and Engineering, and Social Sciences.

SCSU's graduate programs are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and all programs are reviewed on a regular basis by professional accrediting organizations. St. Cloud State offers programs and facilities designed to integrate your advanced educational needs with your professional needs. The graduate programs are high in quality and responsive to the working professional as well as traditional graduate students.

The University offers a comprehensive slate of academic programs and allows for considerable flexibility in programs and delivery. Both teaching and research are emphasized.

SCSU's Miller Resource Center is a model electronically based library, combining the benefits of broad band media access, computer labs, and a traditional library.

Many full-time graduate students receive an assistantship and each student is encouraged to participate in an internship program prior to graduation.

The program

The Educational Leadership program develops leaders for the nation's educational system. The program prepares principals, special education directors, community education directors, superintendents, and district office personnel to be committed to providing the finest learning opportunities for K-12 students. Courses offered focus upon developing the skills and personal traits necessary for successful school administration. In addition, field-based learning experiences are an integral, crucial aspect of the program.

Our programs have been approved by the Minnesota Department of Education for meeting the professional preparation requirements for licensure for administrative positions in the following areas:

- K-12 school principal
- director of special education
- school district superintendent, and
- director of community education

In addition, the department participates in the development of special studies programs which lead to graduate degrees in other areas of educational administration.

What are the unique features of our program?

- All education leadership faculty are trained in Selecting and Developing the 21st Century Principal Assessor Training, a leadership development and assessment program provided by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). The peer assessment training model is used to advance the professional competency of students who are seeking administrative licensure.
- The College of Education and the Education Leadership faculty are part of the National Network for Educational Renewal which promotes school reform and improvement initiatives for K-12 school organizations in partnership with higher education.

What degrees and plans are offered?

- Master of Science in Educational Administration and Leadership: at 31 to 36 credit; Plans A, B, C
- Master of Science in Educational Administration and Leadership: Plan B (Written Comprehensives) at 34 credits.
- Master of Science in Educational Administration and Leadership: Plan C (Portfolio) at 36 credits.
- Master of Science in Community Education: at 34 to 37 credits; Plans A & B. Licensure track at 22 credits.
- Sixth Year Certificate Program in Educational Administration and Leadership at 30 or more credits (K-12 Principal, Superintendent, Director of Special Education).
- Specialist Degree in Educational Administration and Leadership at 36 credits.

What program options do I have?

Educational Leadership Options

Master of Science in Educational Administration and Leadership

- Provides the first step in pursuing Educational Administration Licensure.
- Upon completion of the M.S. a graduate may choose to pursue licensure through the 6th Year Program or the Specialist Degree Program.

Required for admission to the MS:

- A bachelor degree from an accredited institution is required.
- Undergraduate GPA is closely reviewed.
- A large emphasis is placed on scholarship within the undergraduate education core.
- Admission decisions are made as completed application files are received.

Master of Science and Licensure in Community Education

- Will lead to Community Education Director licensure.
- 22 semester credits are required for Community Education licensure.
- 37 to 43 semester credits are required for a master's degree in Community Education.
- The requirements for admission to the program are the same for a Master of Science in Educational Administration and Leadership.

The Sixth-Year Certificate Program in Educational Administration and Leadership

- Will lead to Administration Licensure.
- Is a competency-based program that provides an alternative to meet Minnesota state requirements for licensure as a K-12 school principal, special education director, or as a superintendent of schools.
- Applicants must possess a Master of Science in Education Administration/Leadership or an acceptable equivalent to be considered for admission.
- Applicants who have an MS in other disciplines may have deficiencies to complete before admission is granted. Upon completion of the Sixth-Year Certificate Program, a graduate will be eligible to apply for specific Minnesota Administrative Licensure.

Specialist Degree Programs in Educational Administration and Leadership

- Will lead to Administration Licensure.
- The Specialist degree programs include a core of pre-professional leadership courses and academic experiences appropriate to the particular program.
- A minimum of 36 semester credits, including the field study is required. Students will find that the field study is primarily focused on problems and inquiries related to educational leadership or administration.
- Applicants must have a Master of Science in Education Administration/Leadership or an acceptable equivalent, as well as evidence of academic ability to be considered for admission.
- Upon completion a student is eligible to qualify as a K-12 principal, and/or special education director, and/or superintendent.

Sixth-Year program versus the Specialist

The sixth-year licensure program is embedded within the specialist degree program. Students will be qualified to apply for administrative licensure after completing either of these programs. The sixth-year program requires a student to earn 30 credits and successfully complete a portfolio that reflects administrative competencies. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the sixth-year program.

The specialist degree program requires a student to earn 36 credits and successfully complete a research field study. The specialist degree is awarded at the completion of this program.

What accreditation is specific to this program?

- National Council for Accreditation and Teacher Education (NCATE)
- The department is pursuing National Accreditation through NCATE/ELCC, the learned Society for Education Administration Programs

How long will it take to complete the program?

- Part-time student: 4-5 semesters taking 6 credits a semester
- Full-time student: 3 semesters taking 12 credits a semester
- During the academic school year courses are scheduled on weekends and evenings. Summer courses are scheduled in two-week blocks.

What are the Minnesota administrative requirements?

- To obtain an Administrative Licensure an applicant must have completed a Master's of Science in Educational Leadership/Administration plus 30 semester credits, obtainable through the 6th year program or the Specialist Degree program.
- All licensure tracks require a minimum of two to three years teaching experience or 1,500 hours of documented teaching experience through an alternative route, i.e., inservice, workshop, higher education instructor, etc.
- All licensure tracks require the completion of a field experience and a portfolio that reflects the Minnesota competencies for a selected licensure track (Community Education Director, K-12 Principal, Superintendent, and Special Education Director).

Who are the graduate faculty and what are their areas of interest?

Janine Dahms-Walker, Ed.D. 1996, University of Saint Thomas; special education, legal issues

Christine M. Imbra, Ed.D. 1998, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; women and leadership, school safety/violence, ethics, female aggression/bullying

Frances Kayona, Ph.D. 1999, Iowa State University; curriculum and assessment, and performance appraisal systems development

Charles Moore, Ph.D. 1980, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP), education policy

Gary Schnellert, Ph.D. 1993, Iowa State University; school reform, technical-vocational education, school leadership and administration

How do I apply?

Application materials are available from the School of Graduate Studies. Applicants who meet the minimum requirements of the School of Graduate Studies are processed to the appropriate graduate department for their recommendation. Departmental recommendation is based on, but not limited to, the following requirements:

- Minimum of a 2.75 grade point average over the last two years of undergraduate education.
- Verbal score of 480+ on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or a combined verbal and quantitative score of 1,000+.
- Score of 550+ (paper-based) or 213+ (computer-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), in addition to the GRE, if you are an international student.

What type of financial assistance is available

Graduate assistantships and workstudy funds are available for graduate students. Academic year assistantship stipends range up to \$8,000 depending upon assignment and period of appointment. Tuition assistance equal to two graduate assistantship positions are generally sponsored each year, and are available both fall and spring semesters. Graduate assistants do a variety of activities, including assisting faculty in various research and instructional preparation tasks.

In addition to the salary/stipend, both full and part-time graduate assistants are eligible for tuition assistance. Tuition assistance waives approximately one-half of the student's graduate tuition cost per semester. Tuition for a maximum of six graduate credits may be waived in a semester. Tuition assistance is applicable only to 500-600 level courses.

Information about assistantships can be obtained from the School of Graduate Studies. Student loans are also available. Information about student loans can be obtained from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.

St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity.

TTY: 1-800-627-3529 St. Cloud State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.

This material can be made available in an alternative format. Contact the department/agency listed in this publication.

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