Program Description

The doctoral degree in instructional leadership (IL) is an opportunity for education leaders to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field with a view to shaping agendas for educational policy makers, curriculum directors, central office administrators, and professors. Highly qualified educators who demonstrate a desire to further their professional and scholarly knowledge and who are committed to doctoral study are selected for this program.

Admission requirements include a graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher, satisfactory scores on the GRE verbal and quantitative sections, and an interview with the department graduate policy committee.

The program consists of a minimum of 60 credit hours beyond an initial master’s degree in education or a closely related field. Upon admission, the candidate is assigned a faculty academic advisor who assists in developing a course plan in accordance with the program requirements.

Candidates typically enroll part time (two courses per semester) for the majority of their program. Courses are offered on the Queens campus (weekday evenings). Off-campus cohorts are periodically developed in collaboration with local school districts. A limited number of doctoral fellowships are available each year for candidates pursuing full-time study. Doctoral dissertation research is conducted with the mentorship of a faculty advisor following the completion of course work.
Program Benefits
The doctoral degree in IL provides a means for candidates to conduct research and impact educational policy at the state and national levels and to engage in professional organizations, school systems, and agencies.

Career Possibilities
Our program graduates have attained leadership roles in their respective schools and districts. They hold administrative positions in school systems, governmental agencies, and research organizations. Many teach at colleges and universities, preparing future teachers and school leaders.

Partnerships
The Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership has partnerships with educational agencies in the metropolitan area, including the Nassau County BOCES, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, Stony Brook University, and the New York City schools. Collaborative ventures with educational institutions in Korea and Italy have also been established.

What makes our program unique? Why come here?
The doctoral program at St. John's University has an outstanding reputation for quality and completion. Faculty advisors work closely with candidates to identify research topics pertinent to the field of education and relevant to their own work contexts. The partnerships listed above provide a unique opportunity to examine issues in education with data that reflect the current challenges in the local area, region, or state. Doctoral candidates are supported in publishing and presenting their research in local, regional, and national forums.

According to the New York City Department of Education, "St. John’s graduates were rated highest in retention, the percentage of teachers still employed in the NYC DOE three years after hire; were second-best in tenure approval; had the lowest receiving ‘unsatisfactory’ ratings their first year; and 91 percent of its teacher graduates were rated ‘highly effective’ or ‘effective’ as reflected in student growth scores on fourth- through eighth-grade math and English tests."

US News and World Report has recently ranked The School of Education’s graduate program as the “Best Online Graduate Education Program.”

What’s in it for me?
The doctoral program is a terminal degree in education. The completion of this degree allows our graduates to be very competitive for high-level educational job opportunities. Faculty mentors support and encourage students’ scholarly agendas. St. John’s graduates take on leadership roles across many areas of the educational system.

Internships/Placement
The Career Center at the University helps candidates identify opportunities for advancement.

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