Program Description
The Dual Advanced Certificate Program for School Building Leader (SBL) and School District Leader (SDL) is a nationally accredited program that provides students with an intellectual environment that enables them to refine existing knowledge and develop new knowledge, practices, and skills in the areas of administration, assessment, and curriculum. Graduates of this innovative program earn New York State certification to become school building leaders and school district leaders in central offices. All courses are designed to train professional educators to assume various administrative, supervisory, and leadership roles in schools, districts, and other educational organizations.

Admission requirements include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, a master’s degree (minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher) from an accredited institution, and a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience, pupil personnel service, and/or school building leadership. Programs require candidates to possess a permanent or professional certificate in classroom teaching service or pupil personnel service.

The program consists of 35 hours of required graduate course work. This includes a three-credit internship in school building leadership and a three-credit internship in school district leadership. Students must also complete two one-credit intensive review and exam preparation courses. Students may apply 30 credits to the 60-credit doctoral degree.

Candidates typically enroll part time (two courses per semester) for the majority of their program. Courses are offered on the Queens and Staten Island campuses (weekday evenings) and Oakdale location (weekend format). Courses are also offered online.
Program Benefits
The Dual Advanced Certificate Program provides a means for candidates to adapt administrative theory to practice; utilize and interpret educational technology; address the learning needs of diverse learners; implement data-based decision making; and understand and conduct research. Online courses offer students flexibility and convenience. All courses are designed to train professional educators to assume various administrative, supervisory, and leadership roles in schools, districts, and other educational organizations.

Career Possibilities
The Dual Advanced Certificate Program is designed to develop educational leaders who are prepared to assume professional leadership positions in school buildings, social agencies, corporations and foundations, central office administrative positions, educational technology, and differentiated instruction. Students become certified in New York State SBL/SDL as principals and/or district administrators.

Partnerships
The Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership has partnerships with educational agencies in the metropolitan area, including 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 Dual Advanced Certificate Program at St. John's University has an outstanding reputation for quality and completion. Faculty advisors work closely with candidates to identify current needs 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. Students are expected not only to consider and improve their own professional practices, but also to lead in facilitating the growth and development of other educators focusing on administration and policy.

According to the New York City Department of Education (DOE), “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.”

As of 2014, U.S. News and World Report ranked St. John’s graduate program in education the fifth-highest out of 166 graduate online programs evaluated across the nation.

What's in it for me?
The Dual Advanced Certificate Program is an advanced certificate degree in education beyond the master's degree. Completion of this degree allows our graduates to be very competitive for high-level educational job opportunities related to school and district leadership roles, curriculum studies, and technology.

Internships/Placement
The Career Center at the University provides assistance to candidates in identifying opportunities for advancement.

Location Availability
Queens, Staten Island, Oakdale, Online Learning

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