School Building Leader

Program Description
A School Building Leader (SBL) Master of Science degree or Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration provides an intellectual environment that enables students 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 a school building leader. The degree includes a subject-matter concentration that can qualify teachers for both permanent teaching certification and building-level certification.

The flexibility of this program allows teachers to fulfill their specific needs, whether to satisfy the requirements for their permanent certification or to take courses that address the needs of their school district. All courses are designed to train professional educators to assume various administrative, supervisory, and leadership roles in schools. Up to 15 credits of the Advanced Certificate may be applied toward a doctoral degree, based on a review of transcripts.

Admission requirements include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university (minimum GPA of 3.0 in general average and in major) and a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience and/or pupil personnel services. Candidates must possess a permanent or professional certificate in classroom teaching service or pupil personnel service.

Admission requirements for those without permanent teacher certification include a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, a 3.0 GPA in the major field, a minimum of one year of successful teaching experience and/or pupil personnel services, and New York State initial teaching certification.

Candidates typically enroll part time (two courses per semester) for the majority of their program. Courses are offered on the Queens campus (weekday evenings) and Hauppauge location (weekend format).

Benefits of Program
The School Building Leader Master of Science or Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration provides a means for candidates to obtain New York State certification for SBL and take on roles as assistant principal, principal, department chair, or other leadership roles in educational settings. Students learn how to adapt curriculum theory to practice, utilize and interpret educational technology, address the learning needs of diverse learners, and understand and conduct research. Online courses offer students flexibility and convenience.
Career Possibilities
The School Building Leader Master of Science and Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration are designed to develop educational leaders who are prepared to assume professional leadership as school building leaders.

Partnerships
The Department of Administrative and Instructional Leadership has partnered 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?
Both the School Building Leader Master of Science and the Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration at St. John’s have outstanding reputations 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 noted above provide a unique opportunity to examine issues in education using data that reflect current challenges in the local area, region, or state. Students are expected to reflect on and improve their own professional practices and also to develop leadership in facilitating the growth and development of other educators.

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 Department of Education 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.”

U.S. News and World Report recently ranked The School of Education’s graduate program as one of the Best Online Graduate Education Programs.

What’s in it for me?
Certified teachers seeking to advance their careers to the next level benefit immensely from the program. The curriculum consists of graduate credits in school administration, a field internship, and elective courses in related content areas including special education, literacy, TESOL, gifted and talented, and pedagogy. Completion of 30 credits beyond an initial teaching degree helps position individuals for salary benefits, promotions, and other career advancement opportunities.

Internships/Placement
University Career Services helps candidates identify opportunities for advancement.

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