The mission of the department is to create, evaluate, exchange, and apply knowledge about leadership, learning, and organizational performance to prepare scholars and scholar practitioners who cultivate equity and educational opportunity in a diverse and changing world.

Many varied educational constituencies need to be able to analyze and to inform debate on educational issues, and to lead and develop learning communities that meet the diverse learning needs of students and society. We believe effective educational leadership in any institution embodies three core values: inquiry, equity and reflection.

Graduates and recipients of the department’s instruction are expected to reflect the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities that will be successful in promoting, producing, and improving learning and increasing public trust in educational institutions.

The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis offers the M.S. degree, Global Higher Education named option in the M.S. degree, the Ph.D. degree, the Wisconsin Idea Executive PhD Cohort (Ph.D.) option cohort, an educational specialist certificate program, and Principal, Director of Instruction, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services and Superintendent licensure programs. All are intended to increase professional knowledge and skills essential for educational leadership, and to prepare persons for leadership positions at all levels of education: preschool, elementary, secondary, special education, vocational and technical schools, and colleges and universities, both public and private.

In keeping with this mission, the department has three specialties or emphases: higher, postsecondary, and continuing education, focused on the effective administration of postsecondary institutions, including higher education leadership, student affairs administration, and athletic administration; K–12 leadership, emphasizing the effective administration of primary and secondary institutions; and educational policy, stressing effective formation and analysis of policies governing the administration of all educational institutions. Students in each specialty will focus their course work within the emphasis, although students are encouraged to learn about other areas as well. Many students in the department also pursue the course work leading to certification for administrative licensure by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH UW–WHITewater

The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents approved the cooperative master of science degree program in educational leadership and policy analysis between the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the UW–Whitewater campus on February 5, 1982.