

# EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY ANALYSIS: EDUCATIONAL POLICY ANALYSIS & EVALUATION, PHD

This is a named option in the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis PhD (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/educational-leadership-policy-analysis/educational-leadership-policy-analysis-phd/>).

There are three departments in the University that focus on educational policy-related issues.

In ELPA (Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis) the Department's emphasis is on conducting educational policy research and analysis with a goal of advancing the achievement of all students through effective policy design, development, implementation, and evaluation of educational policies and programs. Students develop a knowledge base that includes a strong foundation in research methods (both quantitative and qualitative) and an ability to conduct sophisticated educational policy research and analysis grounded in understandings of the educational policy and governance system in the U.S. and the issues and challenges facing educational leaders embedded in school, university, community/technical college, or adult learning contexts. Recent graduates of the program are faculty members at research universities, researchers in research centers and consulting firms, policy analysts for non-profit organizations, university administrators, a university president, and policy analysts at the federal and state levels.

The La Follette School of Public Affairs provides education in public management and policy analysis, as well as in public policy and global governance. Faculty in the School are experts in social policy, health and aging, energy and the environment, international trade and development, and public management. The education provided focuses on gaining quantitative, policy analysis, and public management skills. Students may take elective courses in specific substantive policy areas that are of interest to them. Many La Follette students have an interest in education policy and choose to take courses in ELPA.

A third department, Educational Policy Studies, takes a multi-disciplinary approach (sociology, philosophy, anthropology, history) to the study of educational policy and practice. Students may focus on U.S. or international issues. Students often choose to focus on educational inequality.

If you are interested in policy analysis as it relates to broad social policy issues including, but not limited to education, we recommend the La Follette MPA or MIPA programs. You would be trained in the tools necessary to analyze and design social policy and could take courses in our department and Educational Policy Studies.

If you were interested specifically in educational leadership and policy as a focus for your study (not the broader social policy issues) and intended to work in schools or in school-related policy, particularly in the U.S., we would recommend our department. If you were interested in a more

theoretical understanding of educational policy systems and wanted to take a particular disciplinary focus and a mix of international and U.S. contexts, we would recommend Educational Policy Studies.