Educational Policy, MA

ASU’s Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College is one of the top-ranked graduate colleges of education in the U.S. The graduate programs develop collaborative leaders who bring people and ideas together to enrich the lives of learners, amplify the impact of educators and improve the performance of education systems.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Educational Policy
The MA program in educational policy provides graduates with skills in education policy and applied data analysis. It is particularly well suited for individuals whose current or prospective careers require the use and interpretation of data, such as overseeing assessments or conducting program evaluations. Classroom teachers and practicing educators in other contexts will gain new perspectives on their schools, classrooms and teaching with the skills they develop in this master's degree program.

The coursework deepens students' understanding of research and policymaking and allows them to critically assess education programs and policies and develop the skills they need to engage in data-informed decision-making. Courses address key issues in contemporary education policy, evaluating and synthesizing research literature, analyzing and interpreting data and conducting applied research. With the assistance of a faculty or academic advisor, students also customize their elective courses in educational policy, research methods and other areas of interest to enhance their knowledge and skills.

In the culminating experience in the final semester, students design and execute an individual or group project that utilizes their new knowledge and research skills.

At a Glance

- College/School: Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College
- Location: Tempe campus
Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

Educational Studies, BAE

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours including an applied project (EPA 593)

Required Core (15 credit hours)
EPA 532 Becoming an Informed Consumer of Education Research (3)
EPA 555 Translating Research for Educational Change (3)
EPA 556 Data Analysis for Education Decision Makers (3)
EPA 559 Systematic Inquiry for Problem Solving (3)
EPA 565 Critical Topics in Education Policy (3)

Restricted Elective or Research (12 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
EPA 593 Applied Project (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
For electives or research, students should see the academic unit for the approved course list.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. three letters of recommendation
4. personal statement
5. resume
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The letters of recommendation should be from individuals who can speak to the applicant's potential for success in a graduate program and the personal statement should describe the applicant's interests and reason for seeking this degree.

GRE scores are not required for admission.

Career Opportunities
Students are prepared to expand or pursue careers that involve the use and interpretation of data. This program is also suited for students who want to pursue doctoral credentials in education after graduation.

Career examples include:

- grants administrator
- policy analyst
- program and project manager
- research and data analyst

Contact Information
Educational Leadership & Innovation, Division | ED 118
GraduateEducation@asu.edu | 602-543-6358