

Department of Education Policy and Leadership  
FAQs for the Accelerated School Leadership Program

Why study educational leadership?

There is a significant body of research that underscores the critical role of the principal in creating effective schools. The principal and other instructional leaders are responsible for creating the environment which encourages teachers, students, families, and communities to work together to achieve the vision of the school.

What will I learn in SMU's program? What is the basis for the curriculum?

Through study and research in the core areas of organizational leadership, academic leadership, and educator effectiveness, graduates of the program will be well prepared to serve in a variety of leadership positions in schools or other educational organizations.

There are many educational leadership programs offered in the area. Are there any unique features of SMU's program?

- Comprehensive Academic Leadership component: A series of courses focused on the core domains of instruction (i.e., mathematics, literacy, science, social studies and world languages) as well as special programs such as fine arts and Special Education.
- Field-based projects (internship experiences) integrated throughout the program and completed on each student's campus of employment, so that all learning is immediately applied.
- A schedule which enables students to complete the M.Ed. program in

Who is on the faculty?