

Master of Arts in Educational
Leadership and Administration
(Focus on Community College & University
Administration)

Student Policy Handbook

Department of Educational Leadership
and Administration

New Mexico State University
College of Education

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MISSION

The mission of the Department of Educational Leadership and Administration (ELA) at New Mexico State University is to prepare and graduate capable, skillful, and dynamic educational leaders for a diverse society. Through the use of theory and practice we aim to develop change agents and role models for socially-just educational systems.

PROGRAM DEGREE OFFERINGS

Master of Arts, Educational Administration, Licensure and Pk-12 Administration Focus
Master of Arts, Educational Administration, Community College and University Administration Focus
Ed.D. or Ph.D., Educational Administration, Educational Leadership Focus

THE MASTER OF ARTS

The master's program is designed to assist you in preparation for a career in one of the following areas: public school leadership, community college leadership; university leadership; administration of federal or private sector agencies having educational interests; and educational research. Graduate work beyond the master's degree may be necessary depending on your field interest. The Department adheres to all entrance requirements, found in the Graduate Catalog, <http://catalog.nmsu.edu/>.

ADMISSION

Regular admission to the Department's master's degree program requires an undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0. If you have an undergraduate GPA below 3.0 but above 2.5 you may be admitted by the Department's Graduate Admissions Committee on a provisional basis, if other evidence of academic ability and career potential is provided. If you possess less than a 2.5 undergraduate GPA you are not eligible for admission to the Department.

The ELA portion of the master's degree application process includes:

- A one-page letter of application indicating career interests and reasons for wanting to pursue a master's degree in the department
- A current résumé
- A two-page writing sample that reflects strong written communication skills (for example, a grant proposal, curriculum development project, published article, article review, or a graduate research paper)
- Three letters of recommendation (the recommendation form is available at the end of this handbook or online at <http://emd.education.nmsu.edu/index/student-resources/>)

The Department utilizes a cohort model in which students in each admitted cohort take all of their ELA classes together. The department has chosen this model because it has been shown to be related to higher student completion rates (e.g. Lei, Gorelick, Short, Smallwood, & Wright-Porter, 2011).

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Master of Arts in Educational Administration

Focus on Community College and University Administration

1. _____	Apply to NMSU University Admissions through the online application at https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=nmsu-u .
2. _____	Request that official transcripts from all universities and colleges attended be submitted to: New Mexico State University University Admissions PO Box 30001, MSC 3A Las Cruces, NM 88003-0001
3. _____	Complete your application to the ELA Department by submitting: a) One-page letter of intent b) Two-page writing sample c) Résumé d) Three letters of recommendation (Writers may use ELA's form available at http://emd.education.nmsu.edu/index/student-resources/ . Form is also on page 10 of this handbook. Mail documents to: New Mexico State University Educational Leadership and Administration P.O. Box 30001, MSC 3N Las Cruces, NM 88003-0001

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Master's in Educational Administration Focus in Community College and University Administration (Higher Education)

Cohort 2016 and onward

ELA 530	Management of Educational Change	3 credits
ELA 540	Management of Student Services in Higher Education	3 credits
ELA 550	Higher Education Law	3 credits
ELA 555	Higher Education Finance and Funding	3 credits
ELA 566	Internship: Higher Education Part I	3 credits
ELA 567	Internship: Higher Education Part II	3 credits
ELA 569	Basing Decisions on Data in Higher Education	3 credits
ELA 580	Administration of Adult and Continuing Education	3 credits
ELA 582	Community College Administration	3 credits
ELA 563	Higher Education Administration	
ELA 585	Elements of Research	3 credits
ELA 586	Multicultural Leadership in Education	3 credits

STUDENT POLICIES

After admission, you should become familiar with the ELA department policy that students who miss taking a course with their cohort will have to wait to take the course when it is offered to the next cohort, which may be up to a year later. Additionally, you should be aware of the ELA department policy that no courses in which a grade of less than a “B-” will be accepted toward graduation. **Beginning with the Fall 2014 cohort, students who receive less than a “B-” grade will be required to repeat the course and earn, at minimum, a “B-” grade in the repeated course.** Courses in which a student earns a “C” grade or below will not be counted toward graduation. **Please note that the next offering of any course may be a semester or more away.** Courses are scheduled annually to meet the upcoming cohort’s Program of Study. Again, it may be up to a year before that course is offered again.

ACADEMIC STANDING

ELA adheres to all NMSU Graduate School policies. Commonly referred to policies include the maintenance of a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to remain a graduate student in the department.

Additionally, students who have less than a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of any semester will be so informed and placed on probation by the Graduate School. If, during the next enrollment period, a student fails to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or to show substantial improvement in the quality of work, the student will be suspended from courses for one semester by the Graduate School. Students must re-apply to the Graduate School and to the ELA department if the student wishes to continue in the master’s program after the semester of suspension. If the GPA remains below 3.0 after admission, the student will be suspended for one year, and again, must reapply to both the Graduate School and to ELA for readmission. Please see the Graduate School Handbook for complete details.

If a student feels that a grade was incorrect, the student may appeal the grade. Please see the Graduate School Handbook for the seven-step process to appeal a grade. Each step must be followed as described for the grade appeal to be considered by the Appeals Board.

TRANSFER OF CREDIT

The ELA department does not accept credits earned at other universities.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Students may request an instructor to assign an Incomplete grade only if the student is unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student’s control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course (see Important Dates and Deadlines link at <http://registration.nmsu.edu/>). Examples of appropriate circumstances include documented illness, document death or crises in the student’s immediate family, etc. In no case is an Incomplete to be used to avoid the assigning of D, F, or Unsatisfactory grades for marginal or failing work.

To assign an “I” grade, the instructor will state in writing the steps necessary to complete the remaining coursework. The student will sign this document and a copy will be provided to the student and a copy will be placed in the student’s departmental file. The agreed-upon work must be completed in a manner satisfactory to the instructor. The work must be completed with 12 months of the last official day of the course, otherwise the grade turns into an “F.”

WITHDRAWING FROM CLASS(ES)

Students are encouraged to take all courses with their cohort. In rare circumstances, a student may need to withdraw from a course or courses. If a student needs to withdraw from courses in the **first semester** of the degree program, he or she may, **with permission** from the ELA Department Head and faculty, be **allowed to join the next accepted cohort** and begin again then. To do so, the student **must**, before taking leave, **submit a letter of request to return**. If the student did not request to be included in the next admitted cohort at the time that he or she left the first semester, then the student will need to reapply to the program as a new student. There is no guarantee that students who reapply will be selected again. The number and quality of applications are different each year, and the application will be considered in the same way as all new applications.

If a student needs to withdraw from one or more courses once he or she has finished the first semester, **the student must communicate this to the instructor of the course(s) and the student’s advisor**. The student may be allowed to continue taking courses with the cohort in subsequent semesters but **will need to wait to take the missed course(s) until offered to the next cohort**. This may mean that in a future semester, the student will need to enroll in more courses than other cohort members in order to make up missed course(s). Please note; ELA only schedules courses to provide the program of study to existing cohorts. **Make-up courses beyond these regularly scheduled cohort courses are not offered**. Additionally, please note that, according to Graduate School policy, students must finish all regular coursework before taking the comprehensive exam. Students who have not completed all coursework, even though their cohort colleagues have, will not be able to take the two internship courses that are tied to the final semester’s comprehensive exam.

Students who do not enroll in coursework for two or more regular semesters (fall and spring) will be considered to have dropped out. If the student wishes to resume studies, he or she must reapply to the Graduate School and formally petition the ELA department to return to the program.

If a student needs to withdraw from the university for a calendar year or more, he or she should **request a leave of absence**. The student must **submit a formal letter** through her or his department head to the Dean of the Graduate School. E-mails will not be accepted. The request should include the beginning date and the anticipated ending date for the period of absence. A graduate student on leave of absence will be expected not to use university facilities and place no demands upon the university faculty and staff, and therefore will pay no fees. Time spent on

leave of absence status will not be counted toward time limits. **A graduate student who fails to register for one calendar year without obtaining a leave** of absence from the Graduate School will be considered withdrawn from the university and **must make a formal application to the Graduate School for readmission at least 30 days prior to the semester that the student plans to enroll.**

When considering leave, please note that the Graduate School will not accept any master's level coursework that is **more than seven years old** at the time of the comprehensive exam.

INTERNSHIPS

The internship is required of all master's degree programs in the department. All programs require two semesters of internship. Internship are approximately 120 hours (Pk-12 master's students may have different requirements). The internships are tied to the final comprehensive exam.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

In the semester of the second internship, the student is eligible to take the comprehensive exam. If the student does not pass the comprehensive exam, he or she will be eligible to retake the exam in the following semester. The student must pass the comprehensive exam in order to earn the master's degree.

TIME LIMIT

The coursework required for the master's degree must be completed within seven years (eight consecutive summers). Any coursework more than seven years at the time of the final examination will not be included in the program.

COMMUNICATION

While individual instructors may be willing to use students' personal e-mail accounts for communication, **any official NMSU communication is always sent to a student's NMSU e-mail account.** Please check this account weekly. Information about registration, financial aid, comprehensive exam verification, graduate school status, etc. is always sent by the respective NMSU office to the student's NMSU e-mail account. Failure to check this account will not be an excuse for missing deadlines, etc.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Students should consult the "Student Code of Conduct" section in the Student Handbook (see below for links) for information regarding definitions of misconduct. If the standards of conduct are deemed to have been breached by violations such as plagiarism, fabrication of data, etc., then the policies and procedures detailed in the Student Code of Conduct will be followed. If a student is unclear about the definition of plagiarism, cheating, etc., he or she should speak to his or her ELA advisor and/or course instructors. The burden of understanding falls upon the student.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Students may be interested in the opportunity to teach or perform research as a departmental graduate assistant. Eligibility criteria, pay schedules and permitted length of assignment for graduate assistantships are consistent with those listed in the Graduate Catalog or online at <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/ga/index.htm>.

To apply for an assistantship, pick up an ELA Graduate Assistantship Application from the department office or online at <http://emd.education.nmsu.edu/index/student-resources/>. This form must be completed and returned to the department office by January 15 for a spring graduate assistant position. Graduate assistant positions are awarded in an official offer provided on ELA letterhead. If you receive an official offer, you will be required to accept or reject the offer by signing and returning the form in a timely manner. For further information or questions concerning the application process, please contact Alma Meza, ELA Department Administrative Assistant by e-mail at almeza@nmsu.edu or by phone at (575) 646-3825.

By accepting a graduate assistantship, students are obligated to enroll and maintain enrollment in a minimum of nine credits of graduate coursework per semester for the fall and spring semesters. As the ELA master's program only offers six credits of coursework per semester, it is the responsibility of the student to select and enroll for the additional three credits for each semester in which the student receives a graduate assistantship. A graduate assistant need not be registered during the summer, so long as they were registered for the previous full semester and/or the following full semester.

As a graduate assistant, students will be assigned to teach courses or support instructional activities for professors according to the needs of the department and your personal expertise.

TEXTBOOKS AND COURSE MATERIALS

The NMSU Barnes and Noble bookstore requires all faculty members to submit book orders before the beginning of each semester. To find the book(s) for a course, go to the Barnes and Noble website, look up the course to see the listing of books. Students are free to purchase these books from any venue. Please save all receipts for book purchases until receiving confirmation from the instructor that the book listed by the bookstore is the correct book and edition. ALWAYS be flexible and ready to return or exchange textbooks as needed.

