

Ph.D. in Public Policy with a Concentration in Educational Leadership and Policy



Students enjoy collaboration with fellow educators and researchers

This 45-credit, post-master's program is a collaboration between the USM's Muskie School of Public Service and the School of Education and Human Development. Students develop policy and research skills to influence educational policy and practice.

Applicants and graduates work in K-12 teaching and leadership positions and in Higher Education as faculty, researchers, or student affairs professionals.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Program can be completed in 3 years, including dissertation
- Unique curriculum combines public policy and educational leadership
- Ideal for working professionals
- Cohort style fosters community and collaboration
- All courses are offered in a face-to-face or blended format
- Students have the option of accessing the various policy centers and grant-funded programs such as CEPARE and the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI), as well as the Muskie School of Public Service.

ADMISSION OVERVIEW

- The next cohort will begin in fall 2018. The admission cycle will open in winter 2018.
- A master's degree is required for admission
- Applicants are generally working professionals with experience and interest in educational leadership

MEET OUR STUDENTS

Paul Dexter, Director of Academic Retention Initiatives, USM

Paul started out as a clinical social worker before transitioning to higher education. He coordinated USM's Student Success Center and co-created the Learning Commons. Paul's dissertation, "The Influence of Engagement Upon Success and Persistence of Online Undergraduates," is directly relevant to the work he does now.



Katie Hawes, Superintendent, RSU #21

Katie has worked in K-12 schools for her entire professional career. Initially focusing on special education, she has served as teacher, consultant, and administrator in both public and private schools in Maine. Katie's dissertation conducted, "An Examination of Standards-Based Education Relative to Research-Based Practices in Instruction and Assessment."



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The curriculum prepares students to:

- understand the origins, development, implementation and analysis of policy decisions in education.
- develop answers to questions about the ways in which educational policy is formulated and implemented
- make original contributions to the knowledge base of public questions.

Core public policy courses in the Ph.D. are complemented with training in education leadership and policy, which encompasses a range of topics and issues. Students also have the opportunity to participate in CEPARE's research and use that policy research as cases for learning.

Those who successfully complete the degree are equipped to bring their knowledge to educational policy, leadership, and management positions in government, nonprofit agencies, school systems, research organizations, consulting firms, and in college university faculty and administrative appointments.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Students will take two courses each semester (September - May) and two courses during the summer for a total of 18 credits per year. The final course schedule will be developed after students have been admitted, so the program can be best designed to fit the students' needs. However, students can expect to have class one evening per week and approximately one Saturday per month throughout the academic year. During the summer, courses may be compressed with one or two weeks of intensive study.



Most classes are held in the Wishcamper Center on Portland Campus

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Admission Deadline: April 1, 2018

Minimum Requirements: Candidates should have a master's degree in public policy, education, or a related field with a minimum GPA of 3.25. Applicants who do not have a 3.25 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete doctoral studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.

Candidates should submit all application materials to the Application Processing Center, University of Maine System, P.O. Box 412, Bangor, ME 04402-0412. Electronic transcripts and other application materials can be emailed to:

edocs@maine.edu

Application must include:

- A submitted online graduate admission application;
- The application fee of \$65.00. The application fee is free for in-state Maine residents;
- Test scores from the GRE (minimum score 300, or include a letter requesting special consideration);
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, excluding the seven campuses of the University of Maine system. A transcript is official when it comes directly from the institution. If an applicant is submitting an official transcript, it must be in a sealed envelope from the institution indicating that it is an official document;
- Two letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in doctoral study. References should be from individuals who are qualified, through direct experience with your academic or professional work. One of these individuals should be your supervisor. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form;
- Essay (see usm.maine.edu/phd-public-policy for details);
- Certification of finances (international students only);
- Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language);
- Current resume.
- If English is not your language you must submit official TOEFL or IELTS scores. You must have earned a score of at least 550 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 79 or higher on the Internet-based test, or 213 on the computer-based test, or an IELTS score of 6.5 or higher for students whose native language is not English.

For more information:

**School of Education and Human
Development**

(207) 780-5902; kiwarren@maine.edu

**8 Bailey Hall, USM Gorham Campus
usm.maine.edu/phd-public-policy**

For assistance with the application process:

Office of Admissions

(207) 780-4386

usmgrad@maine.edu