EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
AND CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS

School of Education

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About

The Department of Educational Leadership and Cultural Foundations (ELC) is concerned with issues of educational theory and philosophy, sociocultural analysis, educational leadership and school organization, educational policy, and critical pedagogy. The faculty members share a sociopolitical perspective that undergirds our scholarship, teaching, and service. We are committed to the development of a just and caring democratic society in which schools serve as centers of inquiry and forces for social transformation that foster social, economic, and educational equity by honoring differences in race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexual preference. The ELC faculty seek to prepare thoughtful and effective leaders in education through programs of study that are interdisciplinary in focus and that emphasize questions of moral concern, the cultural context of education, and a reconstructive vision for excellent and equitable schooling. Our purpose is to create change agents who work with parents, staff, students, and communities to develop critical understandings of the assumptions, beliefs, and regularities that support schooling and who identify and create practices that allow schools to function more fully as democracies while preparing students for democracy.

The department offers four graduate programs and two certificate programs: Master of School Administration, Specialist in Education in Educational Leadership, Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies with a concentration in Cultural Studies and Post Masters in School Administration and Post Masters in Cultural Foundations and Social Justice Education. As a valued member of our academic community, you will have the advantage of a supportive environment in which you are known, cared for, challenged and invested in. Faculty members take your preparation and your success very seriously. For that same reason, we equip you with more than knowledge; we give you the tools and experience to understand what your future decisions in the field will mean to learners and how you can use your position to bring about positive change for education. ELC is committed to embodying our shared commitments in all of our actions, with social justice and equity as the expressed centerpiece of who we are.

A major component of this department is an undergraduate course, ELC 381 Cultural Foundations of Education, “The Institution of Education,” which is required of all students who are planning to seek teacher licensure.

G  Graduate-level faculty