

Collaborative Online Doctorate in Educational Leadership Program

A Joint Collaboration of CSU Channel Islands and Fresno State Universities

Dear Prospective Doctoral Candidate,

The Collaborative Online Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CODEL) program has been under development by Fresno State and CSU Channel Islands (CI) since early 2012. Faculty, staff and administrators from our respective campuses have worked diligently to bring this innovative program into being. We are very enthused about the prospects of bringing the first doctoral program offered with public university advantages to CI's service area, and of introducing what we anticipate will be the CSU system's first online doctorate in Educational Leadership. We look forward to implementing the CODEL program as it is designed, as a highly practical, worthwhile and challenging learning experience for educational leaders, and as another means for our two campuses to promote access, diversity and innovation in this critically important field.

Approval, Accreditation and Implementation Timeline

The CODEL program has achieved approval by both the CI and Fresno State campuses, the CSU Chancellor's Office, and most recently by our accrediting agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). As a result, we are at the candidate application stage for selecting our first cohort of candidates. This first cohort will get underway in June 2016 with a one-week summer residency at CI.

CODEL Program Summary

The CODEL program will be dedicated to enriching and supporting leaders who are devoting their lives to social justice and democracy in and through education. The program will initially have two options for specialization: (1) P-12 Educational Leadership and (2) Post-secondary Educational Leadership (including community college leadership and administration). Other possible options for specialization may be added in the future.

The philosophical cornerstone of this program is in its attentiveness to curricular issues of relevance and practice. The program includes curriculum-embedded fieldwork, ensuring that this applied doctorate of professional practice maintains an essential balance between practice and theory. Learning in the CODEL program will be both theoretically based and sharply focused on real life educational issues and problems.

This doctorate in education will prepare leaders to meet the educational challenges of today and the future. New skills developed in the program will enable graduates to:

- Acquire theoretical, practical, methodological and empirical knowledge
- Conduct field-based research • Serve the needs of an increasingly diverse student population
- Establish sound educational policy and practice
- Play a leadership role in educational reform
- Conduct educational assessments and evaluations
- Lead innovations in teaching, learning and communicating online

The target population for this program is educators who are leaders or who have potential to be educational leaders in either the P-12 or post-secondary sectors.

Because the CODEL program will be jointly offered, graduating students will receive a diploma with official seals from both Fresno State and CSU Channel Islands.

CODEL Program Structure

The CODEL program is a 60-unit degree with 27 units of core courses (27 units = 9 courses), 21 units of specialization courses (21 units = 7 courses), and 12 dissertation units. Fieldwork components are embedded in many of the core and specialization courses. The program has two strands, one in P-12 Educational Leadership and the other in Higher Education Leadership. Students will progress through the program in cohorts, and each cohort will include students from both strands. This model ensures that “educational leadership” is broadly conceived, allowing students in the P-12 strand to develop deep understandings about what they are preparing P-12 students for, and allowing students in the post-secondary strand to develop deep understandings about where their students are coming from. Students from both strands will take 9 core courses together, and then will split off during their specialization phase of 7 courses.

The program can be completed in three years. Students will attend an intensive residency each of at least three summers they are enrolled in the program (in the range of 8-10 days per residency). During residencies, students and faculty will live in dormitory housing on the CI or Fresno State campus and engage together in community-building, orientation, advising and coursework activities.

Most of the core and specialization courses will take place online, making the CODEL program accessible to working professionals. During the academic year, therefore, the CODEL program will be a virtual campus experience of interactive classes, delivered online and incorporating the latest social networking tools. Courses will be offered using the Blackboard online platform with enhanced features. The courses will use a balance of synchronous and asynchronous tools available in Blackboard, in addition to email, videoconference, teleconference, and other technology as appropriate (e.g., Skype, Google Hangout, GoogleDocs).

While CODEL students may not have entered the program with skills on the cutting edge of technology, they will leave the program prepared to lead innovations in teaching and learning online. At this time, the CODEL program is the only proposed Ed.D. program in the CSU system to be offered online.

Estimated Cost

The estimated cost for a student completing the CODEL program in three years is \$48,800. This amount, which includes tuition, fees and the cost of attending three summer residencies, is comparable with Ed.D. programs in Educational Leadership offered through other CSU campuses. It is \$6,000-10,000 less than those offered by UC and private universities in the region.

If you have colleagues who would like to be added to our CODEL contact list, please encourage them to make that request by emailing gary.kinsey@csuci.edu . Please feel free to send any questions you may have about the program.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary W. Kinsey,
Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy
CODEL Program Director