



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

*MA/MS in Education:  
Educational Leadership and Policy*

**LSE**

Leadership for Sustainability Education

A specialty for those interested in developing leadership skills in sustainability education through rigorous study of educational leadership and application of sustainability education pedagogical principles that address the importance of ecological systems, bio-cultural diversity, social & economic justice, and multicultural perspectives.

Portland State University  
Graduate School of Education  
Educational Leadership & Policy Department  
PO Box 751  
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[www.pdx.edu/elp](http://www.pdx.edu/elp)

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## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

PSU supports equal opportunity in admissions, education, and use of facilities by prohibiting discrimination in those areas based on age, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, religion and sexual orientation. This policy implements state and federal law (including Title IX), and inquiries about it should be directed to the Affirmative Action Office, 122 Cramer Hall. A major goal of this program is to provide a diverse pool of qualified applicants for educational leadership positions in Oregon. African Americans, Asian, Native Americans, Hispanics, and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **Retention of Student Documents**

All documents submitted to PSU become the property of the University and may not be copied or returned to a student. Transcripts from other institutions cannot be copied. (PSU Bulletin 2009-10 p. 41)

**Master of Arts or Master of Science in Education:  
Educational Leadership & Policy  
Specialization: Leadership for Sustainability Education (LSE)**

The Department of Educational Leadership & Policy (ELP) offers a Master of Science or Master of Arts\* in Education with a specialization in Leadership for Sustainability Education (LSE).

*\* Master of Arts degree requires proficiency in a foreign language. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (503-725-3522) administers the language examination, taken any time prior to one's final term.*

### **Mission Statement**

LSE prepares graduates for professional careers in sustainability education through rigorous study of educational leadership and application of sustainability education pedagogical principles that address the importance of ecological systems, bio-cultural diversity, social & economic justice, and multicultural perspectives.

### **Programmatic Description**

Sustainability education focuses on developing the knowledge, perspectives, new ways of thinking, and skills needed to advocate for justice and equity, democratic participation, economic viability, and the regeneration of communities and ecosystems. The LSE program is unique for several reasons. First, the program is inherently interdisciplinary, recognizing that complex socio-cultural and ecological problems must be addressed from a whole systems perspective. Secondly, LSE not only focuses on understanding the interconnected relationships between ecological, socio-cultural, political, economic and ethical aspects of sustainability issues, but on knowing how to educate about complex sustainability issues using participatory, place-based, transformational and culturally relevant pedagogies. Third, LSE serves to prepare learners with the leadership skills and opportunities, through course work and community-based learning, to take leadership roles in envisioning and designing change and educating for sustainable solutions in our communities.

### **LSE Guiding Principles**

The following values guide the LSE program:

1. A commitment to social, ecological and economic justice
2. A commitment to multiple perspectives including multicultural, interdisciplinary, intergenerational, indigenous, local, and global perspectives
3. The development of reflective practitioners and critical thinkers with strong communication skills
4. The empowerment of change agents with leadership skills and the capacity to collaborate with diverse others

5. The integration of theory, research, assessment and practice
6. A commitment to bio-cultural diversity, ecological restoration, and the greater good
7. The integration of indigenous knowledge and whole systems design
8. The fostering of participatory, inclusive, transformational, and lifelong learning
9. The promotion of applied, experiential and community-based learning
10. The fostering of hope and resiliency through networks and relationships within local and global contexts

## **LSE Learning Outcomes**

By the end of their LSE program, students will be able to:

1. Effectively communicate ideas in discussion, presentations and in writing
2. Access, evaluate, synthesize and apply research and information, including grassroots initiatives and knowledge from ELP core studies, to improve sustainability education practice
3. Reflect critically on one's own learning, practice, and professional development
4. Demonstrate a theoretical understanding of leadership, and the skills needed to offer effective leadership for sustainability
5. Critically examine dominant systems and paradigms and analyze complex sustainability issues locally and globally
6. Articulate a broad-based understanding of sustainability education including its interconnected relationships between ecological, socio-cultural, political, economic and ethical aspects
7. Envision and create sustainable solutions using a whole systems perspective
8. Educate others about complex sustainability issues using participatory, place-based, transformational, and culturally relevant pedagogies
9. Work collaboratively, create learning communities and develop networks with diverse others
10. Establish a commitment to leadership in bio-cultural sustainability education

## **LSE Curriculum**

The LSE program requires the completion of at least 45 credits. This includes the *Professional Studies Core* (16 credits), *LSE Foundational Courses* (8 credits), *LSE Thematic Specialization* (12 credits), *Culminating Experience: LSE Comprehensive Exam Course or Thesis* (4 credits), and *Electives* (5 credits).

Most courses are offered in the evenings (4:00-6:30 or 6:40-9:20 p.m.) one night each week. Many courses carry a requirement for 30 hours of Community Based Learning (CBL). Specific requirements for community-based learning are set by the instructor. Students typically take 2-3 courses during each quarter, selecting courses from the professional core, the LSE foundational courses, the LSE thematic specialization and electives. A master's degree can be completed within a period of 18 months to two years.

## **Community-Based Learning**

Most ELP courses carry with them a requirement for 30 credit hours of community-based learning. Community-based learning can be carried out in a variety of organizations and educational settings across the metropolitan region. LSE students with an interest in school and community gardens often volunteer or intern at the Learning Gardens Laboratory, assisting with classes for middle school students or with other projects. Other students volunteer in educational organizations or for non-profit organizations. Students are advised to create a plan for their CBL hours that creates a variety of meaningful experiences that supports their future career goals. For more information about CBL, see <http://www.pdx.edu/elp/community-based-learning>.

## **Internships/Practicum: Local, Regional or International**

Students have the option of pursuing an internship or practicum. Such internship must match the student's interest, the content of the LSE program, and the host institution's mission and human resource needs. Internships are arranged on an individual basis and must be approved by the student's advisor. For international internships, all rules, regulations, policies, and procedures set by the International Studies Office of PSU must be followed.

## **LSE Program of Study**

### **Professional Studies Core: (16 credits)**

Students may complete the professional studies core and any point in their program. However it is recommended that students complete ELP 520 and ELP 511 earlier in the program.

- ELP 511 Principles of Educational Research and Data Analysis (4 credits)
- ELP 520 Developmental Perspectives on Adult Learning (4 credits)
- ELP 568 Educational Organization and Administration (4 credits)
- ELP 551 Social Foundations of Education **OR** ELP 554 Philosophy of Education (4 credits)

### **LSE Foundational Courses: (8 credits)**

The following are LSE foundational courses. It is recommended that every student take ELP 550 in their first term of study.

- ELP 550 Advanced Leadership for Sustainability (4 credits) Fall
- ELP 517 Ecological & Cultural Foundations of Learning (4 credits) Winter

### **LSE Thematic Specialization: (12 credits)**

Students each develop a unique plan of study with their adviser to include 3 additional courses from the LSE program offerings. Students may develop a program of study in one of the following areas:

- *Garden-Based Education in Schools and Communities*
- *Sustainability Education in Schools, Colleges, Communities, and Organizations*

The following overview of LSE specialty areas serves as a guide to developing a program of study. This is not intended to be prescriptive. Students should work with their adviser to choose courses that best meet their learning and career outcome goals.

***Garden-Based education in Schools and Communities:***

ELP 510 Urban Education Farm: Food Policy, Curriculum Design, and Action (4)

ELP 510 Permaculture and Whole Systems Design I (4)

ELP 510 Permaculture and Whole Systems Design II (4)

ELP 519 Sustainability Education (4)

ELP 510 Learning Gardens and Sustainability Education (4)

ELP 510 Garden Based Educational Research (4)

ELP 509 Internship (4)

***Sustainability Education in Schools, Colleges, Communities, and Organizations:***

ELP 548 Global Political Ecology (4)

ELP 510 Spiritual Leadership (4)

ELP 519 Sustainability Education (4)

ELP 501 Theory and Practice of Sustainability (4)

ELP 510 Nonviolence and Gandhi's Educational Philosophy (4)

ELP 510 Permaculture and Whole Systems Design I (4)

ELP 510 Permaculture and Whole Systems Design II (4)

ELP 509 Internship (4)

**Electives: (5 credits)**

Elective credits should be related to the student's overall program and selected in collaboration with an adviser. Students may enroll in graduate-level courses from within the Graduate School of Education or other departments at Portland State University. LSE students frequently choose electives from Conflict Resolution, Community Development, Geography, Environmental Science and Management, Urban Studies and Planning and more.

**Culminating Experience: (4 credits)**

Candidates for the Master's degree in LSE must select, in consultation with their adviser, one of the two culminating experiences: *LSE Comprehensive Exam Course or Thesis*.

- The LSE Comprehensive Exam is a writing experience that requires enrollment in ELP 506 LSE Comps (4 credits), taken as Pass/No Pass. Students should have completed a minimum of 35 credits, including the Professional Core Studies, before enrolling in this course. The Comps course will meet 4 times during the term to help guide students through the completing of a problem-based paper that demonstrates a satisfactory level of knowledge and skill related to LSE learning outcome areas. Students will present their paper orally in the final meeting of the course.
- The thesis option requires enrollment in ELP 503 Thesis for a minimum of 4 credits (but usually requires more). The thesis is likely to require 4-5 quarters of work before the completion of the program. Thesis also requires the appointment

of a Thesis Committee of at least 3 faculty members chosen by the student, two of whom must be from ELP.

- Students who are opting to write a thesis should plan to include the following research course as part of their program of study: ELP 516 Collaborative Ethnographic Research Methods (4 credits).

## Other Programmatic Information

- Students may enroll in courses prior to formal admission into the program. However, students are limited to a 15-credit maximum of preadmission/transfer credits, which are defined as credits taken at any institution, including PSU, before the term of formal admission.
- Courses with grades of “B-” or lower and those taken for “Pass” are not transferable into the program.
- **It is a University requirement that students register and pay for at least one credit in the term they are admitted. Failure to do so will cancel your admission.** Please advise the ELP Department if there is a change of term for which you intend to begin classes. To change your enrollment date **after** admission, you must notify the ELP Admissions Assistant **and** the University Office of Admissions.
- Students must be able to verify that they received their previous degrees from an accredited institution. Second to that, students must also be able to verify that they received a cumulative GPA of a 3.00 for any undergraduate and/or graduate credit coursework.
- No credits over 7 years old at the time of graduation can be counted toward a Master’s degree.
- Students must maintain a GPA of 3.00 or better to remain in good academic standing. No more than four credits of “C” are allowed.
- Subject to the approval of the instructor, students have a maximum of one year to remove an incomplete grade.
- Students must be enrolled for at least one credit during the term they complete their comprehensive examination or thesis.
- Graduation forms and other paperwork are due the first week of the quarter in which the student expects to graduate.
- 808 and 810 credits cannot be used toward a graduate degree.
- All core coursework applied toward the master’s degree must be letter-graded.

- Only a few graduate assistantships are available each year; please check the GSE and ELP Web sites in late spring for openings. Graduate assistants are required to complete 9 credits of course work each quarter for the entire academic year. For other financial assistance information, contact the financial aid office (503-725-3461).
- International students must have an official TOEFL score report sent directly to PSU Office of Admissions from the Educational Testing Service (ETS). **Mail report to:** PSU, Office of Admissions and Records, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207

### When to Apply

Application materials including transcripts, letters of recommendation, personal statement, etc., should be received by the deadlines noted below. A timely admission decision cannot be guaranteed for incomplete applications.

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Application Deadline</i>
FALL 2012	February 15, 2012

- **Initial inquiries** about the program should be sent to [esadvise@pdx.edu](mailto:esadvise@pdx.edu)
- **Questions about the admission process** or about the status of the ELP Department application should be directed to the Admissions Assistant, 503-725-4633.
- **Questions regarding University admission, tuition and financial aid** should be directed to the Office of Admissions and Records, 503-725-3511.

### LSE Faculty

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