



The Instructional Leadership MEd program in policy studies is designed to allow practicing educators to craft their own professional development program in the general area of educational policy studies. Possible emphases include school improvement, social-cultural contexts of education, teacher leadership, and education policy processes and outcomes. This concentration also provides excellent preparation for future doctoral-level work. Students have the freedom to select their own courses from a wide range of engaging classes offered through Department of Educational Policy Studies and any of the College of Education’s departments.

## PROGRAM FACULTY

The faculty members in UIC’s Department of Educational Policy Studies are noted for excellence in teaching and scholarship in their fields of study. As a group, the faculty approach the study of education from multiple disciplines and with diverse perspectives. Students can expect to learn about education using lenses from organizational theory, political science, critical race theory, law, sociology, and business and management, to name a few. In addition, many of our faculty members have a deep knowledge of Chicago Public Schools and urban school systems generally.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The MEd in policy studies requires a minimum of 32 semester hours of course work. Specifically, students must complete nine semester hours from the core curriculum (one course in student learning and development, one course in teaching and learning environments, and one course in the social foundations of education). Students must take 12 semester hours from their area of emphasis (see “emphases” listed in first paragraph) within educational policy studies. Courses that could fulfill this requirement include Instructional Leadership; City Schools; Organizational Theory and Change in Education; Gender, Sexuality, and Education; Introduction to the Politics of Urban Education; and many, many more. Finally, students must take 11 semester hours of general electives chosen in consultation with an advisor.

## SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

Apart from our high-quality faculty, our most distinctive program feature is flexibility. In consultation with their advisors, students will be able to fashion a program of study that allows them to examine a particular aspect of educational policy studies in depth (at least three courses) while also exploring other areas of interest.

## RESULTS

As a flexible program, the Instructional Leadership MEd in policy studies can serve multiple purposes. For individuals who have recently completed an undergraduate degree or have come to education as a second career, this program can serve as an introduction to the field. For current teachers, the program offers an opportunity to think about education beyond the walls of the classroom and to consider teaching practice as embedded within the school as an organization and within the larger contexts of community, city, state, and nation. For all students, the MEd program presents a wonderful chance to explore graduate studies and can serve as a stepping-stone to doctoral work.

## CONTACT INFO

Dr. David Mayrowetz  
Program Coordinator  
312-413-2414  
dmayro@uic.edu

Ann P. Valenta  
MEd Programs Advisor  
312-355-0575  
agarcis@uic.edu