Higher Education Administration Program 2022-2023

Leadership
Molly A. Schaller, Ph.D.
Program Director

Overview
Saint Louis University’s programs in higher education administration prepare professionals to excel in their careers and give back to the greater community. Each program is individually tailored to complement unique interests and professional aspirations. These programs combine theory with practical insights provided by faculty who are both seasoned professors and administrators.

About the Faculty
Faculty members take a genuine interest in students. They provide advising and mentoring for students in their current or future careers as higher education leaders or scholars.

Social Justice Framework
Our programs are grounded in our Social Justice Framework. Social justice has been a “significant lens” for Jesuits since 1965 and is also vital for higher education and student affairs professionals, educators, and community stakeholders. While the definitions of social justice are numerous, David Hollenbach, S.J., wrote that “Social justice concerns institutionalized patterns of mutual action and interdependence that are necessary to bring about the realization of distributive justice.”

In an education setting, distributive justice is the claim that everyone should have access to the public good of education. Toward that end, we strive to find ways to address experiences of systemic injustice, displacing oppressive structures with those that provide for all.

As educators, we understand our particular obligation is to prepare leaders for higher education who will not only dismantle systems of oppression but help shape colleges and universities that create vital educational spaces for all, with an intentional focus on those who have been targets of bias and injustice. With these goals in mind, our program is informed by the Jesuit, Catholic perspective on social justice and is guided by the Universal Apostolic Preferences adopted by the Society of Jesus in 2019 for the decade ahead.

The Jesuits encourage specific approaches to bring about reconciliation and justice. Our program’s framework is specifically guided by two approaches: “Walking with the Excluded” and “Journeying with Youth” (The Society of Jesus, 2019).

The approach “Walking with the Excluded” guides our program’s framework. Our students are personally and professionally challenged to address both higher education and society’s systemic inequities through an understanding of reconciliation and justice.

The approach “Journeying with Youth” encourages the Jesuit community, including our work in the University and the School of Education, to be open to formation by those who are new to our community or those who are younger, including students, faculty, and staff.

As scholars and educators, we aim to co-create a learning environment where students are holistically prepared to:

1. Identify and analyze processes that dehumanize any persons and assist all in collectively and proactively dismantling oppression.
2. Reflect on the socialization that shapes each student and faculty member.
3. Give voice to particular groups’ experiences.
4. Contextualize the history and context that each person brings to our work by incorporating sociopolitical perspectives into dialogue.
5. Reflect upon and ask critical questions regarding the systems, structures, and impact of higher education.

Programs
• Disability Administration in Higher Education, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
• Higher Education Administration, Ph.D.
• Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration, M.A.