About the College and University
The Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC) offers rigorous undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Our college is dedicated to supporting our faculty members and graduate students so that they can provide excellent instruction and pursue bold scholarship and research that changes the face of education. Our award-winning faculty members are recognized by the university, community organizations, and national and international organizations for their outstanding research and master teaching.

College and University Rankings
In 2015, the MLFTC was ranked 17th among all public and private graduate programs in education by U.S. News and World Report.

Arizona State University’s graduate programs rank among the best schools in the nation. For the complete list of ASU rankings and honors, please visit: http://yourfuture.asu.edu/rankings.

Program Overview
As a PhD student in Educational Policy and Evaluation (EPE), you will:

Engage in Scholarship: We prepare scholars who will teach and conduct rigorous research on education policy that advances our collective understanding of PreK-20 education. PhD students in the EPE program engage in systematic analyses of education policies in a variety of settings, including schools, universities, research centers, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Leverage Knowledge: PhD students in the EPE program receive intensive preparation in the theory, methods, and practice of education policy research and evaluation, and an area of specialization. Possible areas of specialization include but are not limited to: American Indian education; comparative, international, and global education; economics and finance of education; higher and postsecondary education; language policy and linguistic diversity; Latino/a education; research, evaluation and assessment methods; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and sociocultural foundations of education. The EPE program also provides opportunities for internships in applied settings and experiences in scholarly publishing.

Conduct and Disseminate High-Impact Research: EPE PhD students work closely with nationally and internationally recognized faculty members on collaborative and independent research projects that result in policy briefs, reports, scholarly articles, and engagement in education policy.

Program of Study
The program of study is as follows:

- **Five core courses**: a) Proseminar in Education Policy Studies; b) Education Policy Analysis; c) Power, Politics and Policy; d) Race, Class, Gender; e) Economics of Education;
- **Four required methods courses**: a) Measurement and Survey Research; b) Introduction to Data Analysis; c) Introduction to Qualitative Research; d) Program Evaluation;
- **Two additional advanced research methods courses**
- **Three courses in an area of specialization**.

EPE PhD students spend their last three semesters of doctoral study engaged in planning, researching and writing the dissertation, which must be defended orally in a public hearing.
Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Admissions Committee look for in applicants?
Admission to the Educational Policy and Evaluation (EPE) PhD Program is selective based on applicants’ educational backgrounds and training, grades, professional experiences and goals, and test scores. Successful applicants will have strong analytical and writing skills, a commitment to understanding and improving education, a commitment to developing the research skills that will allow them to engage in scholarly and applied research and evaluation projects; and the capacity to engage in an intense, four-year program of advanced study that will culminate in an independent research project. We expect to admit a cohort of six to eight students each year.

When are the application deadlines?
Applications for those who are interested in applying for the Fall of 2016 will open up on September 1st, 2015. Priority consideration for admission and funding will be given to applications that include all required materials received by December 15th, 2015. We do not admit new students in the spring or summer semesters. Applications submitted after December 15th, 2015 will be considered if funding and space are available. Admissions applications are processed by the ASU Graduate Admissions Services (https://students.asu.edu/graduate/apply). All applications must include: a) GRE scores; b) a letter of application; c) a writing sample; d) a curriculum vitae or resume; and e) three (3) letters of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the admissions committee.

Do I have to take the GRE?
All applicants are required to submit GRE scores via an official ETS score report. Students who have taken the GRE within the past five years can request that ETS send an official score report to the Graduate Admissions Services. If you do not have current GRE scores on file with the Graduate Admissions Services, you need to make arrangements to retake the GRE so that your scores are available to the admission committee before the December 15th application deadline.

Is there a minimum GRE score for admission?
We do not have a minimum GRE score for admission into the PhD program. Your GRE scores are evaluated as one piece of evidence in the context of the other elements of the application.

What should my personal statement address?
Your personal statement should be a letter of application (up to 1500 words) written by you alone and represent your original work. The letter should address the following questions: Why do you want to pursue a PhD in Education Policy and Evaluation? What, if any, research experience do you have? What other educational, professional, or personal experiences have prepared you for graduate study? What are your objectives for graduate study (research interests, possible faculty mentors)? How will your professional and/or personal attributes enhance the program and/or your peers? What are your goals immediately after completing the PhD program? What professional position do you see yourself holding five years after completing your degree?

What type of writing sample should I include in my application?
The writing sample should be a substantial piece of writing that reflects your ability to write for an academic audience and that you have authored independently. This could include an assignment from a graduate-level course or a seminar in a bachelor’s degree program such as a research paper, case study, or literature review. This document should also include a reference list.

Do I need to have a master’s degree before applying for the PhD program?
A master’s degree is not required before entering the EPE PhD program but is strongly recommended. You can apply for admission while you are finishing your master’s degree. Students entering with a master’s degree can apply up to 30 credit hours of their master’s coursework toward the 84 credit hours past the bachelor’s degree required for the EPE PhD. With approval of the Program Coordinator, students can also receive credit for a maximum of 12 credits not used in any previous degree program as part of the required credits for the EPE PhD, only if they can prove by a plan of study (POS) that the 12 additional credits were not required for their master’s degree. Students that do not enter the PhD program
with a master’s degree will be required to take a total of 84 credit hours of coursework past the bachelor’s degree. Students that leave a master’s program without finishing the degree will be able to transfer a maximum of 12 credits toward the PhD.

Can I transfer into the PhD program from another doctoral program?  
Students cannot transfer directly into the EPE PhD from another doctoral program at ASU or any other university. All of the students that join the EPE PhD program must apply for and be offered admission through the regular application process. Once students are admitted, up to 12 credits of doctoral level credits can be credited toward the EPE program with the Program Coordinator or your faculty adviser’s approval.

Can I take courses before I apply to the PhD program?  
The goal of graduate study is to help you develop the habits of mind and analytical skills that are the tools of a researcher and scholar. Although coursework is required for the EPE PhD program, it is not the core focus. The EPE PhD program is a set of experiences that you develop with a faculty adviser that provides opportunities to learn. Taking classes before you apply for admission at ASU or another university can help you develop your knowledge and skills and is never discouraged. However, taking doctoral courses in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College as a non-degree student prior to applying does not guarantee that you will be offered admission to the EPE PhD program. If you are admitted to the program, your previous coursework will be credited toward the EPE degree at the discretion of the Program Coordinator and your faculty adviser, within the credit hour limits prescribed by the Graduate Admissions Services.

Does the EPE PhD program accommodate distance learning or part-time students?  
The EPE PhD program does not have accommodations for distance learning or part-time study. Our PhD students engage in full-time study because it is essential for students’ academic preparation and mentorship and it immerses students in the academic and research culture of the PhD program. The majority of our classes meet in-person. Most classes meet in early afternoon or evening time slots. Because we expect them to be active members of our intellectual community, PhD students must also be available for ongoing colloquia and other events that are during the day.

Can I take classes outside of the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC)?  
EPE PhD students have the option of taking classes offered across ASU’s campuses. Once admitted, EPE students work with an adviser that helps them devise a program of study related to their research and career goals, which can and should include courses offered in other academic units at ASU as relevant.

How much does the PhD program cost?  
Information on tuition and fees, including tuition schedules for each academic year is available here: https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees.

Is there funding available for graduate students?  
The Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC) offers competitive funding packages to graduate students. Most students are supported through Graduate Assistantships (GA) or Teaching Assistantships (TA). A 20-hour per week appointment as a GA or TA provides tuition benefits, health insurance, and a 9-month stipend. A few additional awards are available for outstanding candidates. Successful applicants are offered admission and funding packages at the same time. We do not award funding packages to prospective students prior to admission. Students who make satisfactory progress typically are invited to renew their assistantships for up to three additional years. Additional awards (fellowships, etc.) are not guaranteed beyond the year in which they are granted.

Can I request feedback on my application if I am not offered admission?  
Due to the large number of applications, we are not able to provide feedback on individual admissions decisions.
If I have additional questions, whom should I contact?
For specific questions about application procedures and processing, program requirements, and program admission, please email phdeducation@asu.edu, or call 480-965-6034 to speak with Tara Burke, PhD Programs Academic Advisor.