Program Overview
The Master of Arts in Educational Policy at Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College (MLFTC) pairs educational policy and applied data analysis to deepen your understanding of research and policymaking. It is particularly well suited for individuals whose careers require the use and interpretation of data, such as overseeing assessments or conducting program evaluations. Classroom teachers will gain a new perspective on their schools, classrooms, and teaching with the skills they develop in the Masters program.

This 30-credit hour program prepares you to critically assess education programs and policies, and develop the skills needed to engage in data-driven decision making. Core coursework is taught one night per week; you then have the flexibility to work with a faculty member or an academic advisor to customize a schedule of elective courses based on your educational needs and interests. In your courses, you will learn to:

- Analyze key issues in contemporary education policy
- Evaluate and synthesize research literature
- Analyze and interpret data
- Conduct applied research projects
- Develop your expertise in an area of interest or research methods

As part of the culminating experience in the final semester you will design and execute an individual or group project that will utilize your new research skills and knowledge.

Contact Information
Office of Student Services – Graduate Programs

For General Inquiries: (602)543-6358
For admissions information please contact Amy Hettmansperger, Student Recruitment Coordinator, at Amy.Hettmansperger@asu.edu.
Current students please contact Megan Gamarra, Academic Success Coordinator, at Megan.Gamarra@asu.edu.

Quick Facts
Campus Location: Tempe Campus
Number of Credits: 30 Credit Hours
Start Terms: Fall
Program Fee: N/A
Time to Completion: Program can be completed in 4 semesters
Application Deadlines: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
Application Requirements & How to Apply

Graduate Admissions Application Requirements

- Earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country
- Must have maintained a “B” (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of English proficiency – International students only
  - If you are from a country whose native language is not English (regardless of where you may now reside), you must provide proof of English proficiency. For more information including additional requirements for international students, please visit the ASU Graduate Admissions website.
  - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:
    - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by ASU Graduate Education

Items Needed to Apply to the Program

- Items that will be uploaded into the online application:
  - Personal Statement that describes your background, and in particular, the personal, educational, and/or professional experiences that lead you to apply to the MA in Educational Policy. Your statement should also address your goals for the degree. The admissions committee pays particular attention to the fit between your goals and the goals of the program. The admissions committee will also evaluate the quality of the ideas expressed in your personal statement and your writing. Statements should be approximately 500 words (2 pages, double spaced). The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format. Please upload the file.
  - 3 professional recommenders (names, emails, and institution/company) who will submit electronic letters of recommendation. One of your recommenders should be your supervising administrator if you are working in a K-12 environment. The others should be from educators that know of your professional capabilities and accomplishments. Choose recommenders that can provide insights into your interests and aptitude for applied research in educational policy. These people will be asked to comment on your research skills, professionalism, flexibility, and other qualities that indicate you are a suitable candidate for graduate study.
  - Resume that includes relevant personal, professional, educational, and community activities (one – two pages). The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
- Items that need to be mailed to Graduate Admissions Services:
  - Official transcripts from every college and university from which you have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - Proof of English proficiency – International students only

Complete and submit the Graduate Admission online application

- Review the application deadlines prior to applying: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
- Start the online application at this website: www.asu.edu/gradapp
- Select the degree: Educational Policy (MA)
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select Tempe campus
- Upload required items listed above
- Submit the application and pay the appropriate application fee
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions
Requirements and Program of Study
The MA in Educational Policy requires completion of 30 credit hours beyond a bachelor’s degree. The program of study includes six required courses and four elective courses. One of the required courses is an applied project course, which students will take in their final semesters.

Required Courses (18 credit hours)
- EPA 532 Becoming an Informed Consumer of Education Research
- EPA 555 Translating Research for Educational Change
- EPA 556 Data Analysis for Education Decisionmakers
- EPA 559 Systematic Inquiry for Problem Solving
- EPA 565 Critical Topics in Education Policy
- EPA 593 Applied Project

Sample Elective Courses (12 credit hours)
- COE 503 Introduction to Qualitative Analysis
- EDP 552 Multiple Regression and Correlation Methods
- EDP 554 Analysis-of-Variance Methods
- EPA 598 Applied Program Evaluation
- EPA 691 Measurement and Survey Research
- EPA 691 International Development and Education
- EPA 691 Issues in STEM Education
- EPA 691 Race, Class, Gender
- EPA 691 Power, Politics and Policy
- EPA 691 Comparative Education Perspectives
- EPA 691 Economics of Education

Students should select elective courses based on their own interests and professional goals in consultation with their faculty advisers. All electives must be graduate level courses (500-level and above). The list above is a sample list of courses that were recently offered in the MLFTC; students are encouraged to seek other courses within and outside the MLFTC. All elective courses must be approved by students’ faculty advisors before the first day of classes for that semester.

Curriculum and tuition for all programs subject to change based on Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona Department of Education updates.

To review course descriptions please visit the ASU Catalog: http://asu.edu/catalog.

Culminating Experience
The culminating experience for the MA in Educational Policy is an independent applied research project related to educational policy. In their final semester of the program, students will take Applied Project in Educational Policy (EPA 593). In this class, students will be mentored by a faculty member to apply the research skills and knowledge they have developed through their coursework to design and execute an individual or group project.

Additional Resources
- Application Deadlines: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
- How to Apply: http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply
- Faculty: http://education.asu.edu/faculty
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: http://graduate.asu.edu/faculty_staff/policies
- Tuition and Fees: https://students.asu.edu/tuitionandfees
Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of background do I need to enter the MA in Educational Policy?

Our students come into the program with a range of backgrounds and interests. Some have worked in school settings (K12 and higher education) while others are interested in developing their knowledge and skills in education. Students with a background in education will find that the program offers them the opportunity to develop their research skills and take advanced courses in a specific area of interest such as special education or higher education. Students that enter the program with an interest in educational policy but little formal training in education can also focus on a specific area of interest or explore a range of policy issues and/or research methods. The elective courses allow students to tailor their programs of study to fit their interests and needs with the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Who will help me design my Program of Study?

After you are admitted to the program, you will be assigned an academic advisor who will help you complete your program of study, register for classes, and direct you to university administrative resources. Your faculty advisor will help you design your program of study. Before taking an elective course, you should consult with your faculty advisor because she/he will have to approve your Program of Study.

Do you admit in the spring semester?

We are only admitting students for fall enrollment at this time. Students who wish to enter the program part-time will only be able to take the required courses in the semester they are offered. EPA 532 (Becoming an Informed Consumer of Education Research), EPA 556 (Data Analysis for Education Decision Makers), and EPA 559 (Systematic Inquiry for Problem Solving) are offered in the fall. EPA 555 (Translating Research for Educational Change) and EPA 565 (Critical Topics in Educational Policy) are offered in the spring. EPA 593 (Applied Project) will be offered in the Spring semester.

Students who do not wish to attend full-time should work with their advisor to create a course sequence that makes sense for part-time attendance.

How long will it take me to complete the degree?

Students who take three (3) courses a semester during the academic year will be able to complete the degree in two years.

When do classes meet?

Most classes are offered in the evenings between 4:15 and 7:30. Most of the required classes are offered in an intensive seven-and-a-half (7.5) week hybrid format with 50 percent of the content delivered face-to-face (weekday evenings) and 50 percent delivered through independent or technology-supported learning experiences and fieldwork. The elective courses will be a mix of hybrid courses or traditional graduate seminars that meet for fifteen weeks, depending on the course. Students with flexible schedules can take elective classes during the day if the classes are appropriate for their goals and program of study and approved by their faculty advisors.

Do you offer courses during the summer?

The required courses for the MA in Educational Policy are not offered during the summer months. Students may elect to take elective courses during the summer months with their faculty advisor’s approval.