



**TEXAS A&M**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTRAL TEXAS™**

M.Ed. Higher Education Leadership  
Program Handbook

*Academic Year 2024-2025*

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## I. Mission

The M.Ed. in Higher Education Leadership program prepares graduates to excel as administrators through coursework grounded in theory and practice.

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## II. Overview

The M.Ed. will provide an applicable, accelerated, and affordable graduate program for aspiring leaders in higher education. Coursework will provide foundational skills in higher education history and culture, institutional administration, research methodology, organizational change, student development, human and financial resource management, and higher education law. The program is offered in a 100% online format, and students have the opportunity of completing the coursework in 12 months while working full-time.

The program adheres to the A&M Central Texas policies for admission, probation, suspension, and expulsion as listed in the graduate catalog and university student handbook. Acceptance into the program is automatic upon acceptance into the graduate school.

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## III. Program Outcomes & Alignment

Foundational Studies- Students will develop a broad-based foundation in higher education history, organization, and administration.

- Core Course Alignment
  - HIED 5301 History of Higher Education
  - HIED 5302 Planning & Resource Management in Higher Education
  - HIED 5303 Higher Education Law & Ethics
  - HIED 5312 Organization & Administration in Higher Education

Professional Studies- Students will select appropriate conceptual frameworks to guide their practice.

- Core Course Alignment
  - HIED 5304 Student Development and the College Environment
  - HIED 5305 Principles of Assessment and Research in Higher Education
  - HIED 5306 Critical Issues in Higher Education
  - HIED 5307 Leading Change in Higher Education

Professional Practice- Students will synthesize a leadership philosophy from both theory and practice.

- Core Course Alignment
  - HIED 5300 Career & Professional Development Seminar
  - HIED 5313 Principles of Management and Supervision in Higher Education
  - HIED 5090 Synthesis Portfolio

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#### IV. Course Rotation

##### Spring

HIED 5302 Planning & Resource Management in Higher Education  
HIED 5303 Higher Education Law & Ethics  
HIED 5306 Critical Issues in Higher Education  
HIED 5313 Principles of Management and Supervision in Higher Education

##### Summer

HIED 5305 Principles of Assessment and Research in Higher Education  
HIED 5312 Organization & Administration of Higher Education

##### Fall

HIED 5300 Career & Professional Development Seminar  
HIED 5301 History of Higher Education  
HIED 5304 Student Development & the College Environment  
HIED 5307 Leading Change in Higher Education

Students attempting to complete the program in one year will take each course as it is offered along with HIED 5090 during their final semester. Students wishing to complete the program in greater than one year are encouraged to take one course per eight-week session. There are no prerequisites for any of the courses, so there is not a mandated sequence of courses. Students should direct all advising questions to Dr. Morgan Lewing at [morgan.lewing@tamuct.edu](mailto:morgan.lewing@tamuct.edu).

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#### V. Courses

##### HIED 5300 Career & Professional Development

This course provides students intentional opportunities to engage in self-reflection, workplace skill enhancement, and leadership development.

##### Objectives

1. Develop a professional career philosophy grounded in relevant scholarship
2. Select specific strategies supportive of personal career advancement opportunities
3. Evaluate existing literature on higher education administration as a profession

##### HIED 5301 History of Higher Education

This course provides an overview of the history and development of American higher education. Emphasis is placed on the influence of political, economic, and social forces.

##### Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a broad understanding of higher education administration, including its history, structure, and underlying theories
2. Evaluate relevant and current issues affecting higher education professionals through historical foundations
3. Analyze the influence of the federal government on the American higher education system

##### HIED 5302 Planning and Resource Management in Higher Education

This course provides an overview of the economics and finance of higher education in the United States, with an emphasis on the analysis of financial policies and current issues at the national, state, and institutional levels.

Objectives:

1. Develop a strategic perspective of resource management and an understanding of how finances impact operations and planning processes.
2. Describe current and future higher education finance issues and trends.
3. Apply a broad understanding of resource allocation dynamics to current issues and trends in higher education.

#### HIED 5303 Higher Education Law & Ethics

This course explores legal aspects and issues of constitutional, statutory, and case law and the ethical implications on professional practice and compliance. Current trends and potential ethical dilemmas of the practitioner will also be covered.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the broad field of higher education law and the role of law on campus.
2. Identify key legal cases that have affected how colleges and universities approach issues with faculty and students.
3. Develop a personal understanding of ethical decision making within a legal context

#### HIED 5304 Student Development & the College Environment

This course serves as an overview of the field of student affairs and the impact of the college environment on student development.

Objectives:

1. Analyze current trends in college student development and success
2. Evaluate the application of prominent student development theories to various settings and populations
3. Articulate the effects of institutional environments and educational practices on student development, engagement, and success

#### HIED 5305 Principles of Assessment and Research in Higher Education

This course examines assessment, evaluation, and research in higher education. Topics include purpose, methodological considerations, ethical implications, and appropriate forms of analysis. In addition, similarities and distinctions between assessment and research will be emphasized.

Objectives:

1. Differentiate the roles of assessment and research in higher education.
2. Articulate the differences between quantitative and qualitative approaches
3. Demonstrate an understanding of basic descriptive and inferential statistics

#### HIED 5306 Critical Issues in Higher Education

This course is an examination of social, political, ethical, and economic issues that impact higher education.

Objectives:

1. Identify current and emerging social, political, and economic issues in higher education
2. Identify potential ethical issues and dilemmas in higher education

3. Analyze the immediate and long-term implications of current and emerging trends

#### HIED 5307 Leading Change in Higher Education

This course provides a survey of organizational change and corresponding leadership dynamics in the field of higher education.

##### Objectives:

1. Describe fundamental theories of leadership and their application to higher education administration
2. Apply theories of Organizational Change to higher education leadership
3. Construct a personal leadership philosophy

#### HIED 5312 Organization & Administration of Higher Education

This course provides an overview of organization and administration in contemporary colleges and universities. Emphasis will be placed on the theory and practices of the organization as it relates to governance, structure, and management.

##### Objectives:

1. Apply appropriate organizational theories to institutional administration and leadership
2. Analyze the contextualized role of cultures and norms that develop within colleges and universities
3. Describe the various external factors that may influence institutional decision-making

#### HIED 5313 Principles of Management and Supervision in Higher Education

This course is designed to prepare students for practice related to staff management and supervisory positions within colleges, universities, and related organizations. Areas of emphasis include evidence-based principles of supervision, staff development, and evaluation.

##### Objectives

1. Discuss evidence-based principles of effective management and supervision within the context of higher education leadership
2. Compare and contrast prominent theoretical frameworks related to employee's perception of support, motivation, and engagement.
3. Apply Adult Learning Theory to general staff development paradigms

#### HIED 5090 Higher Education Leadership Capstone

This course emphasizes the integration, synthesis, and evaluation of major concepts encountered during graduate coursework.

##### Objectives: The student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Synthesize understandings of concepts pertinent to higher educational leadership
2. Apply the knowledge attained to critical issues or problems of practice
3. Articulate a personal leadership philosophy

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## VI. Program Delivery

The Higher Education Leadership program will be offered 100% online and will utilize the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System. Courses are expected to abide by institutional requirements for quality control, but the manner in which instruction and interaction is dispersed across the online learning management system is largely left to the discretion of the independent faculty member.

