

CODEL PROGRAM **(Collaborative Online Doctorate in Educational Leadership)**

Approval, Accreditation and Implementation Timeline

The CODEL program has been approved by CI faculty and administration and is now moving through the approval process at Fresno State. Once that confirmation is achieved, the program will require final approval through the CSU Chancellor's Office and our accrediting agency, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Our initial intention was to launch the CODEL program in June 2015. As recently as last week, however, we learned from our WASC liaison that their backlog puts our earliest possible accreditation approval date in May 2015. Since student applications for financial aid are due prior to that date, our moving forward with a June 2015 launch would preclude any CODEL student from receiving financial aid during their first term in the program. We are therefore planning for a June 2016 launch, pending Fresno State, CSU Chancellor's Office and WASC approvals. (It was a difficult realization, discovering the need to adjust our implementation timeline; we hear from prospective students who are ready and eager to begin their doctoral studies.) Given the unavoidable consequences of the WASC backlog, however, the need for a June 2016 launch date is clear. Most importantly, it will allow admitted students the time they will need to establish eligibility for financial aid when they begin the program. It will also provide us with more time to navigate the complexities of inter-campus agreements, and to create the practices and structures essential for ensuring the quality and success of this innovative program.

CODEL Program Summary

The philosophical cornerstone of this program is in its attentiveness to curricular issues of relevance and practice. The program includes curriculum-embedded fieldwork, ensuring that this applied doctorate of professional practice maintains an essential balance between practice and theory. Learning in the CODEL program will be both theoretically based and sharply focused on real life educational issues and problems.

This doctorate in education will prepare leaders to meet the educational challenges of today and the future. New skills developed in the program will enable graduates to:

- Acquire theoretical, practical, methodological and empirical knowledge
- Conduct field-based research
- Serve the needs of an increasingly diverse student population
- Establish sound educational policy and practice
- Play a leadership role in educational reform
- Conduct educational assessments and evaluations
- Lead innovations in teaching, learning and communicating online

The target population for this program is educators who are leaders or who have potential to be educational leaders in either the P-12 or post-secondary sectors.

Because the CODEL program will be jointly offered, graduating students will receive a diploma with official seals from both Fresno State and CSU Channel Islands.

CODEL Program Structure

The CODEL program is a 60-unit degree with 27 units of core courses (27 units = 9 courses), 21 units of specialization courses (21 units = 7 courses), and 12 dissertation units. Fieldwork components are embedded in many of the core and specialization courses. The program has two strands, one in P-12 Educational Leadership and the other in Higher Education Leadership. Students will progress through the program in cohorts, and each cohort will include students from both strands. This model ensures that "educational leadership" is broadly conceived, allowing

students in the P-12 strand to develop deep understandings about what they are preparing P-12 students for, and allowing students in the post-secondary strand to develop deep understandings about where their students are coming from. Students from both strands will take 9 core courses together, and then will split off during their specialization phase of 7 courses.

The program can be completed in three years. Students will attend an intensive residency each of at least three summers they are enrolled in the program (in the range of 8-10 days per residency). During residencies, students and faculty will live in dormitory housing on the CI or Fresno State campus and engage together in community-building, orientation, advising and coursework activities.

Most of the core and specialization courses will take place online, making the CODEL program accessible to working professionals. During the academic year, therefore, the CODEL program will be a virtual campus experience of interactive classes, delivered online and incorporating the latest social networking tools. Courses will be offered using the Blackboard online platform with enhanced features. The courses will use a balance of synchronous and asynchronous tools available in Blackboard, in addition to email, videoconference, teleconference, and other technology as appropriate (e.g., Skype, Google Hangout, GoogleDocs).

While CODEL students may not have entered the program with skills on the cutting edge of technology, they will leave the program prepared to lead innovations in teaching and learning online. At this time, the CODEL program is the only proposed Ed.D. program in the CSU system to be offered online.

Estimated Cost

The estimated cost for a student completing the CODEL program in three years is \$48,800. This amount, which includes tuition, fees and the cost of attending three summer residencies, is comparable with Ed.D. programs in Educational Leadership offered through other CSU campuses. It is \$6,000-10,000 less than those offered by UC and private universities in the region.

If you have colleagues who would like to be added to our CODEL contact list, please encourage them to make that request by emailing wendy.olson@csuci.edu. Please feel free to send us any questions you may have about the program.

Sincerely,

CODEL Co-Directors



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