



**MERRIMACK COLLEGE**

315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845



**MERRIMACK COLLEGE**

# THE CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY (C.A.G.S.)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY



The C.A.G.S. is an advanced degree, suitable for students who have earned a bachelor's degree as well as a master's degree in education or an educational related field.

The C.A.G.S. in Education Leadership - Principal/Assistant Principal Licensure (K-6, 5-8, 9-12) is an approved DESE program.

### CHOOSE FROM THREE TRACKS

Educational Leadership - Principal/Assistant Principal Licensure (K-6, 5-8, 9-12)

Educational Leadership (Non-Licensure)

Educational Leadership - School Counseling (Non-Licensure)

**Merrimack College** is a selective, independent college in the Catholic, Augustinian tradition whose mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. The College offers undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts, business, science and engineering, and education programs; it also offers master's programs and part-time degree completion programs.

At Merrimack, we live the Augustinian values of hospitality, truth, and social justice. By working together for the greater good, our students, alumni, and faculty have made a measurable impact on our community and our world. We believe there are many paths to success. That's why we empower our students to choose their own direction—and then give them the support they need to excel. By understanding their unique needs, interests, and aspirations, we enable them to grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially.

In the **School of Education & Social Policy** at Merrimack College, we believe that education is a transformative practice that changes the world. The curricular focus of the school—rooted in our Augustinian mission—is to impact social justice and engage citizens for the greater social good.

Our dynamic programs transform individuals and communities by linking theory, research and practice. The school collaborates with over 100 regional partners. We provide students a breadth of offerings in field-based experiences based in schools, community-based organizations, non-profits, legal, social service and local agencies. The work of our students can provide children access to effective schools, and it can help strengthen families and their respective communities.

The school offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs including the Master of Science in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

All of the schools' educator preparation programs are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Our goal is to provide students with fundamental skills that would qualify for a wide range of employment opportunities—benefits that are practical and personally satisfying.

### FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

Office of Graduate Studies

[graduate@merrimack.edu](mailto:graduate@merrimack.edu)

978-837-3563

[www.merrimack.edu/graduate](http://www.merrimack.edu/graduate)



**The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.) program in Educational Leadership is designed for professionals seeking leadership roles in schools or related institutions.**

Candidates currently working as administrators in schools may want to align their administrative skills with the new Educator Evaluation System. For those who plan to prepare for top-level positions in educational administration, the program serves as a foundation for further graduate study.

The C.A.G.S. can serve as a bridge to later pursuit of a doctorate degree.

**PROGRAM FORMAT**

Students may complete the C.A.G.S. in Educational Leadership in as little as 18 months. Courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer terms and, to accommodate the educational practitioner, are held in the late afternoon and evening. Summer courses are held in two sessions—May/June or July/August.

**CURRICULUM**

Students are assigned an academic advisor and enroll in core courses providing a comprehensive view of educational leadership. A capstone involving field-based work or research is required. Within this common framework, students specialize, through their field-based experiences, in preparing for roles as teacher leader, department head, lead teacher, curriculum coordinator, or principal.

The core of each track is designed to provide a strong basis for leadership. In addition, each program offers specialized courses to enable the school leader to meet state requirements or enhance their leadership skills and interests.

To see a course sequence by semesters and review course descriptions, visit [www.merrimack.edu/cags](http://www.merrimack.edu/cags).

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

For application requirements, visit [www.merrimack.edu/cags](http://www.merrimack.edu/cags).

**TRANSFER CREDITS**

Students may transfer up to eight credits of graduate level course work from an accredited college of university. The courses must be beyond the master's degree level and meet the rigor of advanced graduate study. Transfer credits will be reviewed and approved through the program director.

**Educational Leadership - Principal/Assistant Principal Licensure (K-6, 5-8, 9-12)**

Designed for professionals seeking a Principal/Assistant Principal license, this program prepares candidates who are currently working in schools to align their administrative skills with the Massachusetts Professional Standards and Indicators for Administrators as assessed in the Performance Assessment for Leaders (PAL).

**Core Courses (20 credits)**

Required core courses focus on the acquisition of the Professional Standards and Indicators for Administrators, and of the skills and knowledge to complete the four tasks required by the PAL.

- ED 647G – Leadership through a Vision of School Improvement
- ED 646G – Transformational and Collaborative Leadership
- ED 648G – Leadership in Observing, Assessing, and Supporting Teacher Effectiveness
- CME 525G – School, Family and Community Partnership
- ED 652G – Innovative Leadership: Project-Based Research
- Practicum – Co-requisite to ED 652G

**Complementary Courses (16 credits)**

These courses address the additional Performance Standards and Indicators for Administrators not assessed by the PAL.

- ED 607G – Advanced Leadership and Policy in Education
- ED 576G – Education Law and Policy
- ED 645G – School Finance and Operations
- ED 649G – Instructional Leadership for Diverse Learners

**Innovative Leadership: Project-Based Research (ED 652G)**

Students complete a course that assists candidates with the preparation of the documents for the four administrative tasks required for submission for the PAL.

**Practicum Experience**

All students complete a 500-hour practicum experience in a Massachusetts public school that aligns with the level of administrative licensure sought by the candidate. A program supervisor and a supervising practitioner who maintain a principal license at the level sought by the candidate will supervise the candidate's practicum experience.

**Educational Leadership (Non-Licensure)**

Designed for professionals seeking a leadership role in schools or related institutions, the C.A.G.S. program in Educational Leadership (36 credits) is ideal for candidates who are currently working as administrators in schools and wish to align their administrative skills with the new Educator Evaluation System.

**Core Courses (20 credits)**

The required core of our program provides a comprehensive view of educational leadership and a capstone involving field-based work or research.

- ED 607G – Advanced Leadership and Policy in Education
- ED 646G – Transformational and Collaborative Leadership
- ED 576G – Education Law and Policy
- CME 525G – School, Family and Community Partnership
- ED 652G – Innovative Leadership: Project-Based Research (Capstone)

**Electives (16 credits)**

Students may select from the following elective courses to complete their 36-credit requirement. These courses address more specialized leadership skills within the role of an educational leader.

- ED 645G – School Finance and Operations
- ED 647G – Leadership through a Vision of School Improvement
- ED 648G – Leadership in Observing, Assessing, and Supporting Teacher Effectiveness
- ED 649G – Instructional Leadership for Diverse Learners

Students may also choose from other graduate programs in the School of Education and Social Policy to complete their 16 credit requirement according to their interests.

**Innovative Leadership: Project-Based Research (ED 652G)**

All students complete a capstone course that will enable them to develop a comprehensive research project that relates to his/her current practice.



**Educational Leadership – School Counseling (Non-Licensure)**

This concentration integrates advanced education leadership course work with rigorous counseling, research and practice in the field of social/emotional learning, student support systems, therapeutic counseling techniques and college/career readiness.

**Core Courses (20 credits)**

The required core of our program provides a comprehensive view of educational leadership and a capstone involving field-based work or research.

- ED 607G - Advanced Leadership and Policy in Education
- ED 646G - Transformational and Collaborative Leadership
- ED 576G - Education Law and Policy
- CME 525G - School, Family and Community Partnerships
- ED 652G - Innovative Leadership: Project-based Research (capstone)

**Electives (16 credits)**

- SC 6000G - Career and College Counseling (required elective)
- SC 6020G - Research and Leadership in School Counseling (required elective)
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling elective
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling or School Counseling elective

ED 652G - Innovative Leadership: Project-based Research is the culminating course. It will be a practicum for the licensure students, and a capstone project for the non-licensure students.