

M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
CIP 13.0401
New College of Florida

Board of Governors' Staff Analysis
September 2025





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Program Description and Overview

New College of Florida (New College) is proposing a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Leadership, CIP 13.0401. The proposed master's program is designed to teach students leadership skills to become effective school principals and educational administrators at the K-12 grade levels, with opportunities for leadership roles in postsecondary education. The program was approved by the New College Board of Trustees on April 9, 2025. Administrators at New College have been working with the Florida Department of Education to align the program requirements with the required standards for the program to be a state-approved Level One Educational Leadership Program. New College reported having sufficient library and physical resources to implement the proposed program and sustain the program through the first five years. Table 1 provides a summary overview of the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership.

Table 1: Proposed Program Summary

M.Ed. in Educational Leadership	
Tuition per Credit Hour	\$474.33 Florida Resident \$1,169.47 Non-Resident
Delivery Mode	Face-to-Face
Location	Main Campus
Graduation Requirements	36 Credit Hours
Effective Date	Fall 2026

Source: New College of Florida M.Ed. in Educational Leadership Proposal

Need for Graduates in the Labor Market

New College's proposed program would be the eleventh master's program under CIP 13.0401 in the System. As shown in Table 2, state universities awarded 540 master's degrees in educational leadership during the 2023-24 Academic Year, a 19% decline compared to the prior academic year. While there are similar programs offered in the System, New College's program differs from others in that it is designed to prepare graduates using a curriculum that focuses on civil discourse and building strong character associated with liberal arts education. Other programs across the System do not have a similar curriculum to support liberal arts education. This distinction may attract students who may not have typically chosen an educational leadership program.

Table 2: Degrees Awarded, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, CIP 13.0401

Institution	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
FAMU	2		4		2
FAU	91	107	119	84	71
FGCU	13	17	65	81	68
FIU	16	9	27	21	25
FSU	32	31	24	54	46
UCF	120	134	165	129	100
UF	23	13	21	54	35
UNF	66	53	75	90	68
USF	73	107	50	23	43
UWF	144	139	95	131	82
Total	580	610	645	667	540

Source: Board Office of Data Analytics, Degrees Awarded by CIP, retrieved 5/9/2025.

Workforce Demand

The proposed program will prepare graduates for jobs as educational administrators, including principals, district administrators, and coordinators at the K-12 grade levels. The program will also prepare students for leadership roles in postsecondary education that may include roles in teacher education, curriculum development, and academic advising.

New College has been working with the staff at the Florida Department of Education to align the program curriculum with the requirements for a state-approved Level One Educational Leadership Program. To be a state-approved program, the program must be competency-based, align with the principal leadership standards, and lead to Level One certification. Florida school districts require individuals to graduate from a Level One program to be considered for an assistant principal or principal position.

The proposed M.Ed. in Educational Leadership will position graduates for employment opportunities that are projected to grow in Florida and nationwide. The program, which is built on a competency-based leadership model, will produce graduates prepared for jobs as principals, district administrators, coordinators at the K-12 grade levels, and in leadership roles in postsecondary education. The workforce demand for education administrators shows a faster growth in Florida than at the national level. These include positions as educational administrators at the K-12 grade levels, as well as postsecondary education administrators. Many of these positions are expected as a result of educational leaders retiring, as well as those moving to different occupations. As shown in Table 3, the number of jobs for education administrators for K-12 in Florida is projected to grow by almost six percent over the next eight years, with an average of 1,066 job openings each year. Postsecondary education administrators are projected to grow by almost four percent over the next eight years.

Table 3: Labor Market Demand, CIP Code 13.0401

Occupations	% Change in Job Openings		Annual Average Job Openings		Total # of New Jobs		Education Level Needed for Entry
	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	FL 2024-32	U.S. 2023-33	
Education Administrators, K-12	5.7	-0.5	1,066	20,800	820	-1,600	Master's degree
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	3.9	2.9	891	15,200	487	6,200	Master's degree
Education Administrators, All Other	3.4	2.5	149	4,000	72	1,400	Bachelor's degree

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Florida Department of Commerce. Date Retrieved: 6/9/2025.

Industry Advisory Council Plans

According to the proposal, New College will convene an advisory council composed of top school leaders in Florida, leaders of statewide education policy, and national groups who have developed expertise in educational leadership. The advisory council will inform the ongoing planning and stewardship of the program. Also, the council will help New College assess the success of each cohort by analyzing a sample of student summative assessments and providing feedback with which to adjust program expectations and instruction as appropriate.

New College has had conversations with Sarasota and Manatee school district leadership, who have expressed interest in expanding existing memoranda of understanding to provide opportunities for the educational leadership students.

Student Demand and Projected Enrollment

New College anticipates enrolling fifteen to twenty students in the first year of the program and growing incrementally in the first five years to an enrollment of up to eighty students, as shown in Table 4. The student demand for the proposed master's program is supported by New College's existing undergraduate programs. Currently, ten students are enrolled in New College's Pathways to Teaching program, which allows students to gain professional experience in local K-12 schools. New College also reported that current graduate assistants, as well as other campus staff, have expressed interest in applying to the proposed graduate program.

Table 4: Projected Total Student Enrollment

Implementation Year	Proposed Student Headcount
Year 1	15-20
Year 2	30-40
Year 3	50-80
Year 4	50-80
Year 5	50-80

Source: New College of Florida M.Ed. in Educational Leadership Proposal

Alignment with Institutional and System Strategic Priorities

The proposed M.Ed. in Educational Leadership directly supports New College's mission to provide high-quality liberal arts education in the context of a small, residential, public honors college that encourages students to balance critical thinking skills with applied knowledge and innovative research. The program will be built on a competency-based leadership model with clinically proven best practices.

The proposed program aligns with the Board of Governors' SUS 30 Strategic Plan. New College expects the program to elevate student success by producing highly skilled graduates in education who are outcome-focused school leaders. The proposed program will help meet workforce demand in a critically needed area of education leadership. The program's students will provide service to local schools where they will teach and apply educational knowledge and best practices while completing required capstone courses and practicums.

Faculty

New College plans to hire four faculty members for the M.Ed. program in educational leadership. One faculty member to be hired will serve as the program's director and will begin in fall 2026. The other three will be hired beginning in 2027.

Estimate of Investment

The proposed program will be funded through Education and General (E&G) funds. New College estimates that the program's total cost in the first year will be \$654,500 and \$783,250 in the fifth year. The program will charge students the approved graduate tuition rate, which is currently \$474.33 per credit hour for resident students and \$1,169.47 for non-resident students.

Conclusion and Board Staff Comments

If approved, the proposed M.Ed. in Educational Leadership will be the eleventh program in the System offered in CIP 13.0401. The proposed program aligns with the Board of Governors' SUS 30 Strategic Plan by elevating student success and preparing graduates for a critical state workforce need. The university provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate the workforce needs for graduates at the master's degree level and has had conversations with the leadership in the Sarasota and Manatee County school districts regarding opportunities for collaboration. In addition, the university is hiring faculty and has the physical resources and funding to implement and sustain the program for five years.



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