

The Lastinger
Center for Learning

College of Education
University of Florida

Job-Embedded Graduate Degree Program for Lastinger Partner Schools

TEACHER LEADERSHIP FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT



Earn a University of Florida master's or specialist degree in education **on-site and online** at your school with a cohort of your colleagues **free of charge**.

You will feel empowered and respected for your experience and professionalism by collaboratively developing the skills, knowledge and practice needed to transform teaching and learning in your classroom and throughout your school!



Our degree program (offered by the School of Teaching and Learning) is a version of the Teacher Leadership for School Improvement program specifically designed for Lastinger partner schools. With its strong focus on literacy, the program helps educators to become master teachers. This is evidenced by their demonstrated mastery of core competencies of effective teaching:

- Knowledge of content and pedagogy
- Understanding of learner development
- Creating positive classroom environments
- Use of effective assessment strategies
- Critical reflection
- Continuous personal growth
- Designing engaging instruction
- Effective use of technology
- Planning/implementing/evaluating instruction

This is an inquiry-based program that places a high priority on developing teachers who can ensure student success. A real value to you as a participant in the program is the fact that we focus directly on improving classroom outcomes by teaching new strategies, implementing them in the classroom (with guided assistance), collecting evidence of student learning and subsequently reflecting on and adapting practice.

Of further benefit is the fact that the program is *offered on-site (and online)* in Lastinger partner schools. You will participate with a cohort group of your colleagues, learning in the embedded structure and routines of the school. The program is *free of charge* with the exception of books and program materials!

How Does Our Program Differ From Traditional Graduate Programs?

With traditional graduate programs learning is viewed as an individual activity. Knowledge is gained but is often not translated into practice in the classroom. With our program you will actively participate in a professional learning community with a clear and direct focus on classroom practice. Another vital component of the program is that participants examine and reflect upon their own practice as well as collect evidence of student learning and share and apply new knowledge with others within the school community.





Cost/Commitment/Coursework

The Lastinger Center will offer full tuition scholarships to teachers who make a five-year commitment to remain in a Lastinger Center-affiliated school. *This translates to an award of approximately \$14,000!* In return for receiving a full tuition scholarship, participants sign a binding agreement to work in their school for the two years of the graduate program and three years thereafter. The Teacher Leadership for School Improvement program is a two and a half year, 36 credit Graduate program. The majority of classes will be offered on-site at participating schools, while others will be taken online.

Enrollment Procedures and Requirements

To begin, teachers must submit an e-mail to Dr. Alyson Adams of the Lastinger Center (adamsa@coe.ufl.edu) expressing interest in the program. Subsequently, perspective students will be sent additional information on how to apply to the University of Florida. Entrance requirements include an upper division GPA of 3.0 and an acceptable GRE score (typically between 800–1100). *Please note that the student's complete application portfolio will be taken into consideration when deciding on admission to the program.*

The Lastinger Center for Learning

The Lastinger Center for Learning marshals the intellectual resources of the University of Florida to develop new models, strategies and approaches to improve student learning and healthy child development. The Lastinger Center draws on the interdisciplinary research capabilities of the University of Florida to partner with educational, philanthropic and community-based institutions to promote high quality teaching, increase school performance, develop educational leadership, secure parental engagement and mobilize communities in support of schools and children.

The School of Teaching and Learning makes a difference in Florida schools and elsewhere in the nation by providing leadership through discovery, application, and teaching on important problems facing schools today. The School is committed to educating outstanding teacher-leaders and researchers whose practice is informed by broad and deep understanding of their disciplines and by a moral commitment to equity and social justice.

Course of Study for the Teacher Leadership for School Improvement Degree Program

Core Coursework

Guided Teacher Inquiry
 Teacher Leadership and School Change
 Transforming the Curriculum
 Educational Technology
 Data-Driven Decision Making
 Differentiated Instruction
 Professional Portfolio Practicum

Specialization Options

Reading/Writing/Literacy
 Foundations of Reading
 Assessment In Reading Instruction
 Diagnosis/Remediation of Reading Difficulties

Educational Technology

Literacy and Technology
 Media Literacy
 Internet and K-12 Curriculum

Diverse Populations

Culturally Responsive Teaching
 Cross-Cultural Communication
 ESOL Strategies

Learn More...

To learn more about how our *Teacher Leadership for School Improvement* program can help you advance personally and professionally as well as support teaching and learning at your school, please contact:

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