

preparing our children
for success

Introducing the Leadership Program in Early Childhood

Growing evidence indicates that early childhood development has a profound and lasting impact on physical, emotional, and intellectual development in school and later life. This critical discovery demands that the early childhood profession rise to the level of developmental need and prepare our children for successful futures.

Mills College—a leader in initiating formal academic programs in child development and infant mental health—is continuing this tradition of innovation by introducing the Leadership Program in Early Childhood. This groundbreaking degree program is designed to address the urgent need for experienced leaders in the early childhood field, particularly critical in the ethnically and linguistically diverse state of California. The Mills College School of Education will train childhood development and allied professionals to become policy makers, program administrators, agency directors, college professors, and advocates on behalf of our children.

A CHILD-FOCUSED GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Leadership Program in Early Childhood is a 15-month master's degree for professionals currently working in early childhood or related fields. The curriculum is rooted in a philosophy of developmentally appropriate practice and includes a strong foundation in child development theory, family support systems (including child mental health), current issues in early childhood, adult supervision, administrative/fiscal practices, and family and community diversity. Guided by an overarching belief in equity and social justice, Mills College offers a collegial community of dedicated scholars and practitioners who are on the cutting edge of early childhood studies.

Students pursue a master's degree through evening and weekend classes in fall and spring and two summer intensive sessions. Students interested in an EdD pursue the 15-month program followed by another two to three years of advanced study and research. All students take a field placement for at least three semesters. This placement can be taken at the student's current workplace or at another location, and is designed to put student learning into practice.



A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK OF EMERGING LEADERS

Each semester of the program, students participate in a highly interactive Leadership Seminar that strengthens critical thinking skills and leadership development while providing a supportive learning community of students and instructors. Through individual and peer reflection, guest speaker insights, research, field trips, and project development, students gain insight into their own leadership strengths, enhance their skills as emerging leaders, and graduate prepared to assume a variety of leadership roles in policy and program development, administration, and teacher preparation.



AN INSPIRING CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

Located in the foothills of Oakland, California, on the east shore of the San Francisco Bay, Mills offers students access to the diverse metropolitan centers that make up the greater Bay Area. Amid the green rolling hills and the century-old eucalyptus trees of the 135-acre Mills campus, graduate students find inspiration in their programs and in their environment. Students have unique research opportunities at the Mills College Children's School—the oldest laboratory school for teacher preparation west of the Mississippi.

GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID

Committed to encouraging access to education, Mills offers merit scholarships up to \$15,000 per year for qualified students to pursue the Leadership Program in Early Childhood.

For more information about this program, please contact 510.430.3190 or email education@mills.edu.

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