Updated June 17, 2026

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

# EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

## Women in Leadership Concentration
## July 2026–June 2028

The Faculty of Education is proposing to offer a Master of Education Curriculum cohort with a focus on diverse women in leadership for qualified in-service educators and administrators beginning in the summer of 2026

This program will provide an opportunity to explore discourse of leadership through feminine and feminist ways of knowing, being and doing. It will offer opportunities to critically examine spaces of educational leadership (formal and informal) and to recognize the ways women can embody leadership attributes in schools. The cohort will comprise of women—students and professors—thus creating learning spaces where the experiences of diverse women leaders can be critically examined and explored with a view towards supporting and inspiring leadership. To develop understandings of leadership rooted in intersectionality, frameworks that make visible power differences in in education systems, e.g. critical feminism, anti-racist feminist theory, decolonization, culturally sustaining leadership, will be used to envision more inclusive and equitable leadership.

Students will be required to participate in one in-person face-to-face (**F2F**) course as part of the two-week residency period at the initial Summer Institute in at our StFX campus in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Campus accommodations information can be viewed here: Master of Education Accommodations July 5-17, 2026. All other courses will be taught online (**OL**), primarily via a synchronous online format. The first summer courses are condensed over two-week blocks (July 6–16; July 20–30) with a start time of 8:30 am and end time of 3:30 pm, Atlantic Time. Most often, weekday synchronous online courses will be offered from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Atlantic time (Teams, Collaborate, and/or Zoom).

The **tentative** schedule of courses is included below:

| Summer 2026 | Fall 2026 | Winter 2027 | Spring 2027 | Summer 2027 | Fall 2027 | Winter 2028 | Spring 2028 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 534 (F2F)<br>505 (OL) | 562 (OL) | 573 (OL) | 571(OL) | 561(OL)<br>533(OL) | 524 (OL) | 508(OL) | 593 (OL) |

**Information and Admission Procedures**

**Applications for this program will be accepted until March 15, 2026.**

The application information can be found at How to Apply

For additional StFX admission inquiries please contact med@stfx.ca.

For additional inquiries specific to this concentration, please contact Allison Tucker at atucker@stf.ca

***Please note on the application that you are applying to the Master of Education in Educational Administration and Leadership —Women in Leadership Cohort**

| Course Description | |
|---|---|
| **EDUC 534** | **Introduction to Foundations of Education** (core)<br>Students are asked to critically examine their own practice and its context. Issues of power and privilege as they operate in the field of education are central unifying themes of the course. The investigative approach includes ethical reasoning, autobiographical reflection, arts and aesthetics, deconstruction, and sociological analysis. |
| **EDUC 505** | **Introduction to Educational Research** (core)<br>This introductory course covers reading and understanding educational research. Students will explore research issues and critically interpret the main types of research, including descriptive research, qualitative research, case studies, and empirical studies. |
| **EDUC 562** | **Contemporary Issues in Educational Administration Theory (concentration)**<br>This course will examine diverse women's leadership through critical exploration of contemporary issues in Canadian schools with a focus on deepening understandings of formal and informal responsive leadership. |
| **EDUC 573** | **Professional Development and Supervision (core course)**<br>This course addresses the role of supervision in an instructional program, focusing on human resources, instructional initiatives, and the professional development process for teachers and support staff. |
| **EDUC 571** | **Specific Issues in School Administration (focus on Feminist Leadership: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (concentration)**<br>This course will use historical and contemporary research studies to critically explore how diverse women have moved into leadership spaces, and how leadership reflects the contexts (time, location, etc.) in which it takes place. |
| **EDUC 561** | **Leadership Theories (core)**<br>This course in an introduction to theory, research and practice of leadership in education. Leadership theories will be critically examined through the lens of how women experience and enact leadership in the education system. |
| **EDUC 533** | **Dynamics of Change (core)**<br>This course examines major concepts in the successful implementation of change. Students will learn to recognize and understand the ways in which change can have an impact on education. |
| **EDUC 524** | **Mentorship Models and Practices (concentration)**<br>This course will explore various ways to conceive mentorship and strategies through which mentorship supports both personal practice and the practice of others. |
| **EDUC 508** | **Critical Research Literacy in Education (core)**<br>This course examines how to critically read, interpret, and evaluate educational research. Graduate students will have the opportunity to explore and understand research literature in relation to outdoor education. The questions raised in this course will form the basis of the final capping experience in the program. |
| **EDUC 593** | **Capping Experience: Independent Study (concentration)**<br>All students enrolled in EDUC 593 will engage in practitioner inquiry and complete a capping experience and to share their work with their peer group, as part of a designated celebration day. This work will focus on an area of professional and personal interest, synthesizing their learning in the Women in Leadership concentration. |