Learn to Change the World

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Master's Programs
A master's degree from HGSE prepares you with the skills you'll need for a long-term, impactful career in education.

WE CULTIVATE THE LEADERS EDUCATION NEEDS
we know that the work we do here matters to the world. We approach our mission of improving educational opportunities and outcomes with urgency and purpose.

Our master’s program prepares innovative education leaders who are ready to change the world, whether they are practitioners, entrepreneurs, policymakers, or researchers. From early childhood to higher education, our students seek to address the sector’s most pressing needs.

At HGSE, you will have the chance to be mentored and taught by outstanding faculty. And you’ll join passionate students from around the world. Whichever program you choose, you will be surrounded by a diverse, engaged, and supportive community, dedicated to transforming lives through education.

I hope you will join us.

BRIDGET TERRY LONG
Dean
Saris Professor of Education and Economics
Harvard Graduate School of Education
WORLD-CLASS FACULTY.
CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH.
INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP.

Whether you’re seeking to develop new competencies, further your career, or deepen your knowledge to make an even greater impact on the world, a master’s degree (Ed.M.) from HGSE offers exceptional academic preparation, personal and professional development, and opportunities for research collaboration — all within a customizable yearlong program.
IMPACTING EDUCATION—
AT EVERY LEVEL, IN EVERY ROLE

At HGSE, we’re committed to changing the world through education — and our unique curriculum helps you make this vision a reality.

Our program will help you tap into your leadership potential, create the conditions for meaningful learning and development, and provide opportunities for you to address and remedy systemic challenges present in the education landscape — across communities and throughout education settings.
HGSE faculty and alumni are leading the way in improving outcomes for all students. In addition to facilitating classroom learning, our faculty are out in the field — conducting cutting-edge research and leading initiatives that transform teaching and learning.

Upon graduation, our alumni translate the leadership, entrepreneurial, and practical skills they’ve learned into a variety of outcomes-focused initiatives — as teachers and think tank researchers, program managers and policymakers, counselors and curriculum designers.
CHART YOUR OWN COURSE

Whether your goal is to become an instructional designer, research director, or education entrepreneur, HGSE’s master’s degree can help you achieve your professional aspirations. Our unique curriculum centers around three pillars — **Foundations**, **Programs**, and **Concentrations** — that enable you to design a personalized learning pathway that best fits your interests and objectives.
LET’S START WITH THE FOUNDATIONS
Core skills + knowledge + ways of thinking

HOW PEOPLE LEARN
Offers a deep understanding of how people progress through different ages, stages, and contexts of learning.

EVIDENCE
Explores how to gather, evaluate, and implement evidence so you can make decisions that lead to better outcomes for all learners.

EQUITY + OPPORTUNITY
Focuses on the core concept of equity in education — preparing you to identify and address the inequities that exist in the field.

LEADING CHANGE
Provides knowledge on how to work within an organization or education system — with a concentration on leading and managing change.

While not required, these thoughtfully crafted courses are strongly recommended as they make essential knowledge accessible, relevant, and applicable to real-world settings.
PREPARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our four Programs are each designed to prepare you for a key role in education — from leadership and learning support to policymaking and technology — that aligns with your professional aspirations. Led by our world-renowned HGSE faculty, each program includes coursework, core experiences, and real-world opportunities that ensure you have the key skills and competencies needed to generate better student outcomes.
IT’S TIME TO GET WITH THE PROGRAM

Preparation + experience + real-world engagement

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATIONS, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Cultivates the skills you need to become an effective, strategic, and innovative leader.

EDUCATION POLICY AND ANALYSIS
Provides you with a deep understanding of what works in education and how to leverage policy to generate solutions.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION
Prepares you to offer learners the academic and social-emotional supports that align with their individual needs.

LEARNING DESIGN, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY
Offers you the opportunity to create technological innovations and evolve the science of learning to improve student outcomes.
DISCOVER YOUR PASSION

If you wish to specialize in a specific context or area of education to prepare for your chosen career path, our flexible curriculum offers two optional approaches — Concentrations and Electives. Concentrations include a combination of tailored coursework, applied learning experiences, and co-curricular activities, such as events, speaker series, and workshops — all designed to deepen your knowledge in the area you choose. Our program also offers curated elective courses that will enable you to customize your HGSE learning experience.
IT TAKES CONCENTRATION
Cohort + community + collaboration

ARTS AND LEARNING
Explores the integral role the arts play across art forms, age groups, and learning environments.

EARLY CHILDHOOD
Prepares you for a variety of roles within the early childhood education sector.

GLOBAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND COMPARATIVE EDUCATION
Enables you to gain experience addressing education inequalities in low- and middle-income countries.

HIGHER EDUCATION
Equips you for a career in postsecondary education — within universities, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and consulting firms.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGES
Addresses how literacy-related developments support student outcomes.
FACULTY AND ALUMNI MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE FIELD

Professor Adriana Umaña-Taylor
The Identity Project

Adriana Umaña-Taylor concentrates her academic research on factors that impact the development and adjustment of adolescents. She created The Identity Project — an intervention curriculum that engages young people and helps them explore and more fully understand their racial and ethnic identity. She also currently works on three studies that examine how adolescents address issues related to race, ethnicity, and identity.

Professor Paul Reville
Education Redesign Lab

Paul Reville is a former secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and focuses on education reform and policy issues. He’s the founding director of HGSE’s Education Redesign Lab — an organization that works to improve outcomes for low-income children. The lab collaborates with local officials to increase access to early childhood programs, enrichment activities, health services, college/career assistance, and networking opportunities.
The Aspen Institute

Douglas Wood was the 2018 recipient of HGSE’s Alumni Council Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education and currently serves as the director of the Aspen Institute’s Criminal Justice Reform Program. He’s previously worked as a teacher, associate dean, and program officer and has been recognized for his work helping low-income, first-generation students receive and complete a high-quality postsecondary education.

Kari Croft, Ed.M.’15
Da Vinci RISE High in Los Angeles

Kari Croft co-founded Da Vinci RISE High in 2017 to ensure Los Angeles-area youth in foster care or impacted by homelessness could complete their education and receive much-needed ancillary services. The former high school teacher developed the initial concept for the school while attending HGSE — with encouragement from faculty and cohort members — later creating a charter petition as her Equity in Education course final.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

HGSE students gain critical insights and perspective through classroom discussions, small-group sessions, and research projects. Yet we also recognize the importance of learning that occurs outside of the formal classroom setting — learning that takes place within your cohort, via alumni networks, and through co-curricular experiences on the broader Harvard University campus and in the Boston/Cambridge community. Here’s a sampling of the community learning you’ll experience as an HGSE student:

COHORT LEARNING
Peer-to-peer learning plays a significant role at HGSE, and you will have the opportunity to engage with members of your cohort during in-class discussion opportunities and through co-curricular learning experiences.

ALUMNI NETWORKS
Our global alumni base of 32,000+ professionals will serve you throughout your career by providing connections, collaborations, and mentoring opportunities.
CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Learning continues far beyond your in-class academic experience, and HGSE offers a variety of programming, including:

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Events, collaborative learning experiences, and professional development opportunities

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION LEADERSHIP
Fellowship programs, advisory committees, and funding opportunities

TEACHING AND LEARNING
Events and programs that highlight and promote innovative teaching and learning strategies

HARVARD ADVANTAGE
As an HGSE student, you’ll also experience a range of benefits, resources, and opportunities available across the Harvard University campus, including cross-registration options with other graduate schools and open access to the world’s largest library system.

BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE
During your yearlong HGSE degree program, you can experience all the Boston/Cambridge area has to offer — from history to innovation to culture. You’ll find renowned institutions, championship sports teams, performances and lectures, bookstores, restaurants, and more.
EXPLORE REAL-WORLD OPPORTUNITIES

HGSE faculty members are recognized for their expertise in education practice, policy, and research — consulting with urban school districts on turnaround programs, advising federal policymakers, and generating education opportunities in countries around the globe.

As part of your master’s program, you’ll have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of career pathways while working alongside our faculty. HGSE hosts numerous research centers and projects where you can gain real-world experience, including the following:

**X-MEDIA LAB**
HGSE’s X-Media Lab uses digital storytelling to reach school systems, teachers, and students through innovative programs, workshops, and materials. The lab also launched a new incubator that offers mentoring assistance for projects you develop through coursework.

**SAUL ZAENTZ EARLY EDUCATION INITIATIVE**
Led by HGSE Professors Nonie Lesaux and Stephanie Jones, the initiative works to cultivate optimal early learning environments and offers you research, mentorship, and fellowship opportunities.

**HARVARD GSE INNOVATIONS & VENTURES IN EDUCATION (HIVE)**
Through resources that include mentors, networks, workshops, and competitions, HIVE cultivates education entrepreneurship — helping you build the skills necessary to develop and launch innovative approaches to address education challenges.
LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN EDUCATION

Through innovative programs, workshops, and recruiting events, the Career Services Office at HGSE offers you lifelong professional development and career management. As one of the few offices of its kind dedicated to education students, HGSE’s career services team will help you navigate your job search by assisting with resumes, cover letters, interviewing skills, salary negotiations, and internships.

A 2019 Ed.M. report revealed that our graduates go on to work in a variety of fields, including the following:

Where Our Graduates Go
- PreK–12: 35%
- Nonprofits: 22%
- Higher education: 19%
- Media/Technology: 8%
- Consulting: 6%
- Other: 5%
- Government: 3%
- Healthcare: 2%

What Our Graduates Do
- Administration Management: 40%
- Teaching/Training: 28%
- Analyst/Research: 17%
- Technology/Production: 7%
- Counselling/Human Services: 6%
- Other: 2%
WHO STUDIES AT HGSE?

2019–20 ENTERING CLASS

Master of Education (Ed.M.) students: 623
Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Ph.D.) students: 25
Doctor of Education Leadership (Ed.L.D.) students: 25

Visit hgse.me/hgse-doctoral to learn more about our doctoral programs.

Students came from 41 U.S. states + D.C. and all continents with the exception of Antarctica, and represented 52 countries of citizenship.
71% Female
24% Male
1% Other (includes Transgender, Genderqueer, Gender non-conforming)
4% Declined to respond

25% International
33% Students of Color
23% First-Generation
15% LGBTQ

0–30 years of work experience
Ed.M. Average: 4.2 years
Ed.L.D. Average: 11.9 years
Ph.D. Average: 4.1 years

94% of our students were enrolled full-time
6% part-time exclusively at the master's level
READY TO CHANGE THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION?

HGSE brings together people who are committed to making a transformative impact through education — people who demonstrate leadership, dedication, curiosity, a sense of mission, and an entrepreneurial spirit. By beginning — or continuing — your education journey through our master’s degree program, you can identify an enriching pathway that will help you achieve your professional aspirations.
Here you will find an overview of our application process and information around our financial aid approach that will enable you to take the first steps toward reaching your goals.

ADMISSIONS

**Step One**
Introduce yourself by filling out an online form at hgse.me/hgse-intro

**Step Two**
Explore and connect with us by visiting our Admissions website at gse.harvard.edu/admissions

**Step Three**
Apply online at hgse.me/application

**Deadline**
Submit your online application and materials by January 5, 2021

FINANCIAL AID

We recognize that graduate education is a significant investment of your time and resources. At HGSE, we partner with you to identify workable funding resources to help make graduate study here possible. HGSE’s resources can include grants, scholarships, loans, work-study funding, or fellowships. There are also funding opportunities outside of Harvard to investigate. Start planning now; it’s never too early. Learn more at hgse.me/hgse-aid.

For more information, visit gse.harvard.edu/masters.