

Illinois State University
Educational Administration & Foundations

Leadership, Equity, and Inquiry Ph.D.
Program Goals

The Leadership, Equity, and Inquiry (LEI) Ph.D. concentration focuses on preparing graduates for work in a diverse array of educational and research-focused contexts across PK–12, higher education, and community-based organizations. Applicants' interests might include such diverse contexts as work in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and think-tanks, educational activism in the public sphere, activists or advocates of community organizing, social justice-committed organizational leaders and researchers, those seeking political office, and activist scholars and pedagogues in institutions of higher education. Example vocations might include college or university faculty, chief diversity and inclusion officer, multicultural center director, leadership positions within not-for-profit organizations or NGOs, or traditional leadership roles in PK–20 education. Put simply, LEI program faculty and curricula prepare activists and advocates to make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. An LEI Ph.D. graduate leaves our program with the knowledge and skills necessary to:

- Design, deliver, and enact anti-racist, equitable, inclusive pedagogy, scholarship, creative products, and service within your chosen organization, community, or subdiscipline.
- Identify, name, critique, and address human-created social systems and organizations that, by design, discriminate, dominate, and oppress certain peoples and groups.
- Develop skills used to be a critical leader, activist, and advocate within communities or organizations.
- Become skilled at recognizing and employing a range of research methodologies and methods, including philosophy of science and those truth and knowledge claims represented by research paradigms in the social sciences.
- Consider your own biases, subjectivities, and positionality and how these affect your pedagogy, scholarship, advocacy, and activism.
- Become a critical consumer of research and culture, including media literacy.
- Express your ideas and, most importantly, your personal voice persuasively, clearly, logically, and passionately, in multiple formats.
- Envision and enact a more just world.