Request for New UConn Academic Degree Program

General Information

Name of degree program:	Adult Learning 6th Year
Name of sponsoring Department:	Educational Leadership (EDLR)
Name of sponsoring College:	Neag School of Education
Campuses:	Storrs
Contact persons:	Jennifer McGarry, Department Head, EDLR
	Robin Grenier, Associate Professor, EDLR
Type of Proposal:	Reinstatement
Type of Program:	Sixth Year Diploma
Anticipated Initiation Date:	Fall 2019
Anticipated Date of First Graduation:	Spring 2021
CIP Code:	43251

Background & Description

A program leading to the Sixth-Year diploma in Adult Learning provides an opportunity for advanced students who have the master's degree to increase their professional competence through further study under the guidance of a faculty member.

The program leading to the Sixth-Year Diploma in Adult Learning provides advanced graduate students an opportunity to pursue a course of study beyond the Master's degree under the guidance of a member of the faculty in the Department of Educational Leadership. The program is structured to continue the academic preparation of experienced and qualified educational leaders, supervisors, and master teachers in their areas of specialization.

Documents

Students who have earned a Master's degree at a college or university of approved standing are eligible to apply to the Sixth-Year Diploma program. Prospective students must meet the admission criteria of both the Graduate School and the Department of Educational Leaderhip. Consideration for admission requires the following:

Complete the online application to the Graduate School
Upload the following materials electronically into the online application:
Transcripts of all collegiate work completed to date, graduate and undergraduate
3 Recommendation Letters
Personal Statement
Writing Sample
Residence Affidavit.pdf

TOEFL or other approved test (for international applicants whose native language is not English)
Resume/Vita

Taken together, the documents in your application should provide a compelling argument for why you are applying to the program. Seek excellence in the documents you submit. Provide explanations for your application materials. Help the Admissions Committee understand: Why do you want to earn the degree at UConn? What are you curious about? To the committee, the documents in your application should present a complete picture of who you are and what are your scholarly goals.

Reasons for the Proposed Program

We would like to reinstate the Adult Learning 6th year program, specifically for applicants who apply to our Learning, Leadership, and Educational Policy (LLEP) PhD application who are promising candidates who may need to take a few additional courses in order to be admitted into LLEP. The Adult Learning 6th year has existed in the department before, and was accidentally discontinued.

Curriculum & Program Outline

A program leading to the Sixth-Year diploma in Adult Learning provides an opportunity for advanced students who have the master's degree to increase their professional competence through further study under the guidance of a faculty member.

The Adult Learning 6th year program in the Department of Educational Leadership prepares individuals to: (1) identify issues that impact adult learning across a variety of contexts; (2) critically examine important questions in the field using rigorous research methodologies and methods; (3) construct theoretical models based on sound empirical research to guide practice and policy; (4) lead organizations in assessing and meeting learning needs of individual adults, organizations, and communities; (5) design supportive learning environments and systems; (6) facilitate learning activities to optimize adult learning; and (7) apply lenses of social justice and organizational change to work in and with complex organizations. Students must earn at least thirty (30) credits in a planned program of professional education beyond the Master's Degree, and complete a summary project or a comprehensive exam.

Required Core Courses (15 credits):
EDLR 5201 — Influences on Adult Learning
EDLR 5204 — Organizational Learning
EDLR 6313 — Educational Policy and Politics
EDLR 6467 — Social Justice Leadership, Equity, and Change
EDLR 6050: Prospectus Development

Adult Learning Courses (9 credits minimum)

Tract One courses focus on the Individual Learner. Examples of courses in this tract include:

COMM 5101 Motivation
EDLR 5202 Workplace Learning
HDFS 5215 Models and Concepts of Lifespan Human Development
PSYC 5251 Neural Foundations of Learning and Memory
PSYC 5567 Cognition

Tract Two courses focus on Designing Learning Environments. Examples of courses in this tract include:

EPSY 5220 Introduction to Educational Technology
EPSY 5520 Instructional Design
EPSY 5530 Theories of Learning, Cognition, and Instruction
PP 5319 Program Development and Evaluation
COMM 5650 Communication Technology and Society

Research Courses (6 credits minimum)

EDCI 6000 — Qualitative Methods of Educational Research
EDLR 6052 — Qualitative Methods of Educational Research II
EDCI 6005 — Advanced Methods of Qualitative Research
EPSY 5605 — Quantitative Methods in Research I
EPSY 5607 — Quantitative Methods in Research II
Other research courses as appropriate, such as EPSY 5610, EPSY 5613, EPSY 5621

Learning Outcomes

We believe that adult learning is fundamental to individual, professional, and social development. It comprises both explicit and implicit processes that are based in experience and interactions between individuals and their environments. Optimal adult learning is supported through attention to individual attributes, key cognitive processes, and contexts in which individuals learn. Our mission is to graduate practitioners, researchers, and leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and values to support adult learning at individual, community, organizational, and policy levels.

The Adult Learning 6th year program in the Department of Educational Leadership prepares individuals to:

- Identify issues that impact adult learning across a variety of contexts
- Critically examine important questions in the field using rigorous research methodologies and methods
- Construct theoretical models based on sound empirical research to guide practice and policy
- Lead organizations in assessing and meeting learning needs of individual adults, organizations, and communities
- Design supportive learning environments and systems
- Facilitate learning activities to optimize adult learning
- Apply lenses of social justice and organizational change to work in and with complex organizations.

Enrollment & Graduation Projections

Yearly Enrollment: 10 students
Number of Students Expected to Graduate Each Year: 5

Financial Resources

The Program will be self-supporting from Neag School of Education and Department of Educational Leadership funds.

Facilities/Equipment/Library/Special Resources

This program will be housed in the Neag School of Education in the Gentry Building on our Storrs campus.

Program Administration

The program will be supported by the EDLR administrative team lead which will include fielding all inquiries and managing admissions. EDLR website coordinator will manage all online recruiting. Faculty in existing graduate programs will advise students, and current Adult Learning faculty will manage program size and related course enrollments.

Similar Programs in Connecticut or Region

There are no similar programs in either Connecticut or the northeast region that we are aware of.