

PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CAREERS

Identify your stage. Plan your next move.

STAGE 1:

EXPLORING THE FIELD

This stage represents individuals who are beginning to explore careers in higher education. Examples include undergraduate students, entry-level professionals, and individuals learning institutional systems within higher education.

STAGE 2:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This stage focuses on developing leadership capacity through graduate education and professional development. It includes individuals pursuing or completing a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Higher Education Leadership, strengthening leadership skills, understanding policy and governance, and preparing for supervisory roles.

STAGE 3:

DIRECTOR-LEVEL LEADERSHIP

At this stage, professionals typically move into leadership roles where they begin managing teams or programs. Responsibilities may include supervising staff, managing programs, and leading strategic initiatives within a university or college.

STAGE 4:

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

This stage reflects advanced leadership roles that influence institutional direction. Individuals at this level may pursue or hold a Ph.D. Higher Education Leadership and may lead institutional change, conduct research and assessment, and influence governance or policy decisions.

STAGE 5:

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

The final stage represents senior leadership roles within higher education institutions, such as Dean, Assistant/Associate Vice President, Vice President, or Chief Operating Officer, where individuals provide executive-level leadership and institutional oversight.

Build Foundational Experience

Advance Through Graduate Preparation

Step into Greater Responsibility

Prepare for Strategic Impact

Lead at the Executive Level

Pathways supports advancement through mentorship, graduate preparation, and intentional career mapping.