

Excellence and diversity: Through people, ideas, and innovation
-The Vision Statement of the UNM College of Education

The Educational Leadership Program at the University of New Mexico provides an academically rigorous and supportive learning environment where communities of learners think about and talk through ideas; ask interesting and provocative questions; engage in inquiry; examine issues from multiple perspectives; exercise curiosity, imagination, and creativity; and take action to improve educational and community environments and opportunities. We recognize that our students are professionals with multiple roles, and we seek to ensure an appropriate balance between intellectual growth and respect for students' personal and professional lives.

Spring 2008

School Law

EdLead 561

COURSE SYLLABUS

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Instructor Information...

Instructor: Dr. Carl Madzey
E-Mail: madzey@unm.edu
Phone: w505-277-2172, c-580-321-0351
Office: 382 Hokona Hall

Office Hours and Contacting the Instructor:

I am available by appointment, including evenings and weekends. I am often in the office, particularly by appointment Monday's and Tuesday's 6-7 p.m.

Texts & Readings

The following textbook is required for this course:

La Morte, Michael W. (2005). *School Law: Cases and Concepts*. 8th Edition.
Boston: Pearson. ISBN 0-205-41913-5

You can purchase your textbook at the UNM bookstore, in person or online via <http://bookstore.unm.edu/>. Some students choose to purchase their textbooks via other online resources; you may do so. ***Additional reading will be provided from time to time.***

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Course Description, Requirements & Prerequisites

This course explores how different aspects of the law, including constitutional and statutory requirements, affect educational leadership. Using a focus on the concepts behind the legal issues, the course examines how school leaders can improve educational provision at their sites to address underlying concerns behind court cases.

There are no prerequisites for this class, but please note that it is a graduate level course.

For some weeks of the class, you will need access to a computer that will allow you to access the WebCT environment at UNM.

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to give students an overview of major legal issues in education, particularly as they affect school-level personnel. By the end of the course, students will understand the constitutional, regulatory, and contractual aspects of public school law. In particular, students will

- Understand the critical issues involved in applying the law fairly and justly
- Understand the complex nature of the federal, state, and local authority levels as they relate to applying statutory and constitutional law
- Understand the importance of school policies as they relate to legal issues
- Examine the legal issues regarding religion in the schools
- Understand school and district liability risks and protections
- Understand teachers' rights and responsibilities
- Examine the ways that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) impacts schools and teachers
- Examine issues of tenure, dismissal, and due process

In addition, this course is one of the Educational Leadership courses that seeks explicitly to integrate technological and communicative competencies school leaders need. As such, students will also

- Become adept at using the Internet to access needed legal information
- Increase writing competencies targeted at promoting school change

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Conceptual Framework

The Conceptual Framework of the UNM College of Education is based upon the belief that professional education should seek to help individuals develop professional understandings, practices, and identity. This course develops students'

- Understanding of social and political forces behind school law, fundamental rights of citizens within educational institutions, and foundational knowledge of school law issues
- Practices of school planning and improvement that address the social, political, and legal issues connected to school law
- Identity as leaders for equitable, just educational environments

The conceptual framework of the Educational Leadership Program is based upon the concept of transformational leadership. In accordance with State competencies, this course develops students' abilities to

Improve learning environments in ways that support all members of a school community
Examine arenas for advocacy both within a school building and in the larger political world to influence both the citizenry and policymakers to consider various sides and implications of legal decisions
Create a school respectful school environment that reflects the principles underlying the legal issues facing schools

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Assessment and Grading Criteria

ASSIGNMENTS (More details on each assignment over the course of the term)

1. **Exam:** Students will have a comprehensive final exam for this course.
 - Worth 25% of grade
 - Based on readings, text, discussions, and resources used in the class
 - The format will be determined by the instructor
2. **Reaction Papers:** Topics will be appropriate to school law.
 - Worth 25% of grade
 - Instructor will clarify during first class sessions
3. **Class Participation:** Each student brings school experiences to class and shares through written and oral presentations.
 - Worth 20% of grade
 - Individual work
 - Small group work
 - Large group work
4. **Law Projects:** Students pick one law case and report to the class in written and oral form.
 - Worth 30% of grade
 - Written report 6-8 pages
 - Describes how the case affects school administrators today

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**EDU – 561 SCHOOL LAW
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO**

SPRING, 2008

Dr. Carl Madzey

Tentative Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING	NOTES
1	Jan. 28	Syllabus & Court System	Chapter 1	
2	Feb. 4	New Mexico Cases		
3	Feb. 11	2007 Supreme Ct. Decisions		
4	Feb. 18	Student Rights	Chapter 3	Reaction Papers Start
5	Feb. 25	Teacher Rights	Chapter 4	
6	Mar. 3	NO CLASS – Law Library		
7	Mar. 10	Reaction Papers and Catch-up		
8	Mar. 17	SPRING BREAK		
9	Mar. 24	District Liabilities	Chapters 2&8	
10	Mar. 31	Major Law Projects Start		
11	April 7	School Finance	Chapter 7	
12	April 14	NO CLASS – Law Library		
13	April 21	Guest Speaker & 94-142	Chapter 6	
14	April 28	Religions Issues	Chapter 2	
15	May 5	Sports Law Issue		
16	May 12	Finals Week		

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Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to honor others' work by appropriately citing sources (<http://www.unm.edu/%7Esac/policies.html#academicdishonesty>). Some online references on academic integrity include the following: The Purdue Writing Lab orientation to APA: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/pp/index.html#research>; APA guidelines, including style, punctuation, and references: <http://www.wooster.edu/psychology/apa-crib.html>; the APA site on electronic references: <http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html>; a Q&A approach to plagiarism questions: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>; the UNM library page linking to an outside tutorial on plagiarism: <http://elibrary.unm.edu/tutorials/General/Writing/legal.htm>.

Absences: Students will be dropped from class on the 3rd absence. Absences generally lower grades.

Communication: Please use or forward UNM email and (LEAD students) be on the listserv! ☺ Otherwise, we cannot guarantee you will hear of changes and course or program requirements.

Academic Writing Skills: The College of Education is committed to supporting students in a range of skills that are necessary for graduate work. The new Graduate Writing Studio will provide a range of services, from one-on-one conferences about specific writing questions to group work and workshops. Contact 277.0462 for information.

Library Research Skills: The UNM Library System offers a range of services to support graduate students in acquiring requisite research skills. <http://elibrary.unm.edu/subjects.php>

Technological Skills: The Technology in Education Center (TEC) offers a range of workshops and other resources to assist students in the acquisition of necessary skills, skills you will use both in your graduate work and as a school leader. <http://tec.cte-0027.unm.edu/>

Access to Education: In accordance with University policies, I will make reasonable accommodations as necessary for religious observances and for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact me within the first week of class if you need special considerations. For information on assistive technology available for student use and additional information on services available through Student Accessibility Services, see <https://as.unm.edu/home/>.

Incompletes, Withdrawals, and Drops: According to University policy, I give out incompletes only under extreme circumstances. If you are running into problems with the course, please contact me as early as possible so you do not fall behind.

This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see <http://www.unm.edu/studentinfo.html> or the [UNM Course Catalog](#) for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the [UNM academic calendar](#) for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.

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