



Catholic School Leadership Development Initiative 2026-2027 Program Guidelines

Catholic Extension Society and Loyola Marymount University have partnered to offer a graduate level online Certificate in Catholic School Administration program to novice and prospective leaders in Catholic schools in Extension dioceses. The program is designed for those currently holding leadership positions in Catholic elementary and secondary schools (such as vice-principals, and new principals) or those that have been identified for a leadership role in the future.

This unique educational program, offered through LMU's *Catholic School Leadership Academy*, provides professional development that is specific to the Catholic school administration context. The one-year (4 course/10 graduate level units) program is designed to address three major themes in Catholic school administration: mission effectiveness, operational management, and instructional leadership. All ten units of this coursework count toward a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership.

Program participants will be asked to commit a minimum of 2 years of service to a Catholic school in their diocese after they successfully complete the certificate program. Additionally, at the conclusion of the program, participants will be asked to apply their new skills by implementing specific projects that will enhance their local Catholic school in a strategic area identified by the principal.

The cost to participate in this program is estimated at **\$19,817** per student but with contributions from both Catholic Extension and LMU, the cost has been reduced to an estimated cost (including tuition and fees) of **\$3,841** per student.

Desired Outcomes:

- **Building Leadership Capacity:** Dioceses and individual Catholic schools can retain their most promising leaders and create a pipeline of talent for future leadership positions or increased responsibilities in their current position.

- **Knowledge and Skills Applications:** Catholic school professional educators can apply the administrative knowledge and skills attained from the program to their current and future work as leaders, therefore strengthening their local Catholic school.

Expected Contributions & Responsibilities of Each Party:

1. Loyola Marymount University:

Financial – The School of Education will provide a tuition grant of 40% to each student.

Programmatic - LMU will be responsible for final admissions decisions for candidates who are selected to move forward after initial applications to Catholic Extension Society. LMU will also coordinate all academic content and logistics related to the certificate program.

2. Catholic Extension Society:

Financial - Catholic Extension Society will provide a tuition grant of 40% per participating student. Funding will be provided directly to the diocese, who will then make final payment to LMU.

Communication - Catholic Extension Society will be responsible for communicating this initiative, and its terms and conditions, to the mission dioceses, and for collection of program applications to coordinate student selection with LMU.

3. School/Student:

Financial - Twenty percent of tuition and any remaining costs, is the expected contribution of the student. At each school/diocese's discretion, they can choose to contribute toward this cost, but any cost sharing is up to the school, student, and diocese and must be negotiated internally. Regardless of the cost sharing arrangement, tuition bills for the remaining tuition amount will be sent to the student via their LMU student account.

A letter of financial commitment to LMU from the student, school, and/or diocese, responsible for the student tuition portion will be required upon approval of scholarship.

Programmatic – At the conclusion of the program, the student will be responsible for integrating their Catholic identity and instructional leadership change idea projects and apply learned skills to enhance their local school.

4. Diocese:

Strategic – The participant will require the signature of their principal and/or superintendent, affirming their positive standing within their school.

Tactical - The diocese will be responsible for reporting results to CES at the end of the program.

Financial Details of Partnership

Contributor	Cost Per 1 Student (estimated)
<p>Catholic Extension Society 40% tuition (estimated for 2026-27)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Travel to Los Angeles for <i>Invitation to Lead</i> weekend at LMU</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lodging and Meals at LMU</p> <p>Total:</p>	<p>\$7,238</p> <p>\$700 (est.)</p> <p>\$800 (est.)</p> <p>\$8,738</p>
<p>LMU 40% tuition</p> <p>Total:</p>	<p>\$7,238</p> <p>\$7,238</p>
<p>School and Student</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">20% tuition</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Registration and Student Fees</p> <p>Total:</p>	<p>\$3,619</p> <p>\$595 (est.)</p> <p>\$3,841</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>\$19,817</p>

(possible) Schedule of Courses

Summer 2026	Fall 2027	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Total Units
EDLA 6420 (1 unit) with Invitation to Lead	EDLA 6430 (3 units) Mission-Focused Leadership in Catholic Education	EDLA 6432 (3 units) Instructional Leadership in Catholic Education	EDLA 6431 (3 units) Organizational Leadership in Catholic Education	10

Timeline

April 1, 2026	LMU Admissions Deadline for students from approved dioceses
May 1, 2026	LMU admissions decisions issued and enrollment process begins
June 29, 2026	Summer 2026 Session Begins (self-paced independent coursework begins)
July 22-24, 2026	<i>Invitation to Lead</i> course, held on campus at LMU (required)
August 31, 2026	Fall 2026 Semester begins
January 11, 2027	Spring 2027 Semester Begins
May 17, 2027	Summer 2027 Semester Begins
June 24, 2027	Program concludes

Partnership Agreement

Applicant:

I agree to complete all required courses and fulfill all program specifications as outlined in the above [2026-2027 Program Guidelines], to the best of my ability.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

(Printed) First and Last Name

Signature and Date

Diocesan Representative:

I have read the Terms and Conditions of the Partnership Agreement and agree to uphold my individual commitment as an active partner in the Catholic School Leadership Development Initiative.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

(Printed) First and Last Name

Signature and Date

School Principal/Superintendent:

I affirm that I recommend the aforementioned applicant as a suitable and capable participant for the program.

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(Printed) First and Last Name

Signature and Date