The Niagara University Ph.D. program in leadership and policy is designed to prepare doctorate-level-qualified leaders who can implement systemic change to further organizational and community goals in international, cross-disciplinary and diverse contexts. The program offers an innovative and unique model.

The Ph.D. program focuses on the mission of Niagara University in bringing social justice and empowerment of those most in need to the forefront of research and provides a course of study in which professionals from various disciplines become change agents. This Ph.D. degree program is designed to enhance the research and policy leadership acumen of practicing professionals who are already established in their respective career paths. It prepares them for an enriched life of research and scholarship.

The Ph.D. requires 60 credit hours beyond a master’s degree, with at least 51 of those credit hours completed at Niagara University. The program admits candidates who have evidence of scholarly work and who are established leaders.

The program consists of two key components: the leadership and policy study core and the research study core. The leadership and policy study core consists of one of the following:

- Single-author, refereed journal article or single-author conference paper.
- Critical review of a book, article, video, etc. (750 words or more).
- Chapter of a graduate thesis or representative paper from a graduate class.

The research study core consists of one of the following:

- Additional graduate courses (nine credit hours) as a research study core elective.
- Candidates are able to select three additional graduate courses (nine credit hours) in their respective concentration field of study.

The admission requirements for Niagara University’s Ph.D. program in leadership and policy are as follows:

I. Master’s degree from an accredited college or university.
II. Two years post-master’s professional work experience.
III. GPA of 3.50 on a 4.00 scale.
IV. Scores at or above the 50 percent level on one of the following standardized assessments:
   - Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
   - Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
   - Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)

The above testing requirements may be substituted by the dean of the College of Education under special circumstances.

V. A professional writing sample consisting of one of the following:
   - Single-author, refereed journal article or single-author conference paper.
   - Critical review of a book, article, video, etc. (750 words or more).
   - Chapter of a graduate thesis or representative paper from a graduate class.

VI. Curriculum vitae or professional resume.

VII. A goal statement of at least 500 words that answers the question: “How will this doctoral program in leadership and policy address my future professional goals?”

VIII. Personal interview: If distance is an issue, a phone or Skype type Internet interview may substitute.

IX. Three letters of professional recommendation.

X. Foreign applicants must submit the results of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The above testing requirement may be substituted by the dean of the College of Education under special circumstances.

For more specific information, visit the Niagara University website, www.niagara.edu, or call the College of Education at 716-286-8560.