



## **2025 HECSE Short Course Description**

### ***Theme: Positioning Doctoral Scholars for Policy Advocacy and Leadership***

Building on the success of previous years' Pre-Summit Short Courses, the Board announces the 2025 Pre-Summit Short Course on Education Policy and Politics for HECSE doctoral students in Washington, DC. The course will consist of a 2 ½ day short course prior to the 2025 summit, beginning Monday, January 27, 2025, and concluding at approximately 10:00 on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. The course is intended to provide a foundation for up to ten doctoral students who will go on to participate in the full HECSE Summit at the conclusion of the Short Course (Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon (January 31, 2025)). The course exposes participants to the HECSE mission and activities so that they develop an affiliation for HECSE as well as policymaking, as they move forward in their careers. Although no credit will be offered, Faculty Sponsors may wish to extend the experience and offer institutional credit as part of an independent study.

This year's course is designed through the experiences of previous Short Course participants and instructors and in alignment with the original concept and design of special education's leading policy expert, Dr. Jane West. This year, several experts in the field of special education policy and other related topics will facilitate the Short Course.

### **Objectives of the course include:**

- to provide a working knowledge of the legislative process
- to provide students with an understanding of the history, purpose and impact of HECSE
- to introduce students to advocacy and professional possibilities related to special education policy and related matters
- to provide students with opportunities for networking, future skill building, and other activities related to their prospective careers in special education and beyond
- to expose students to the organizational structure and key contributors in special education-related policy making in the nation's capital (e.g. including governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and coalitions)
- to empower students with the skills and knowledge to be effective advocates for policies and practices that promote effective preparation of special education teachers and leaders and positive outcomes for students with disabilities

### **Key Features and Expectations: As a result of participation in the course, students will:**

- receive copies of the most current Congressional Directory as a “textbook” (if available)
- complete required readings in advance from Ed Week, Politico, coalitions and national organization publications
- attend all sessions involving congressional staff, national education associations, national coalitions, and the US Department of Education
- attend and participate in visits to congressional offices and the Department of Education

### **Eligibility and Selection**

- Doctoral students, whose institutions are currently financial and in good standing, are eligible to participate in the Short Course and Summit.
  - Per our past HECSE practice, we will accept up to ten students.
  - To ensure access and equity, only one student one per institution may attend.
  - Doctoral students from institutions not represented in the 2024, 2023, 2022 Short Course will have priority consideration.
- Students must be sponsored by a HECSE member who is in attendance at the Summit.
- Selection will be made on a “first come, first serve” basis, based on the postmark date and time of receipt of the mailed application.
- Applications are due no later than **October 31, 2024**.
- Selected participants will be notified not later than **November 16, 2024**.
- Email the completed application to *HECSE’s President*, Dr. Ashley L. White: [ashley.white@wisc.edu](mailto:ashley.white@wisc.edu).
- For questions, please contact our *Doctoral Intern*, Alexis Patterson: [patte637@msu.edu](mailto:patte637@msu.edu).

### **Budget and Student Costs**

Tuition from doctoral students of \$200 per student will be applied to the total Short Course budget of approximately \$7,000.

- Additional costs to be covered by sponsoring HECSE institution or student include:
  - travel to and from D.C.
  - hotel room (or other lodging)
  - meals not covered by HECSE
  - ground transportation (taxi/uber to and from airport, hotel, and field visits)
  - fee for doctoral student participation in the HECSE Winter Summit (\$165)

**Agenda:** A detailed agenda will be sent with the notification letter.