



Leadership Team & Presentation
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Cultivating Data Literacy in Education: From Vision to Impact

A Briefing for the Professional Preparation Board | February 10, 2026

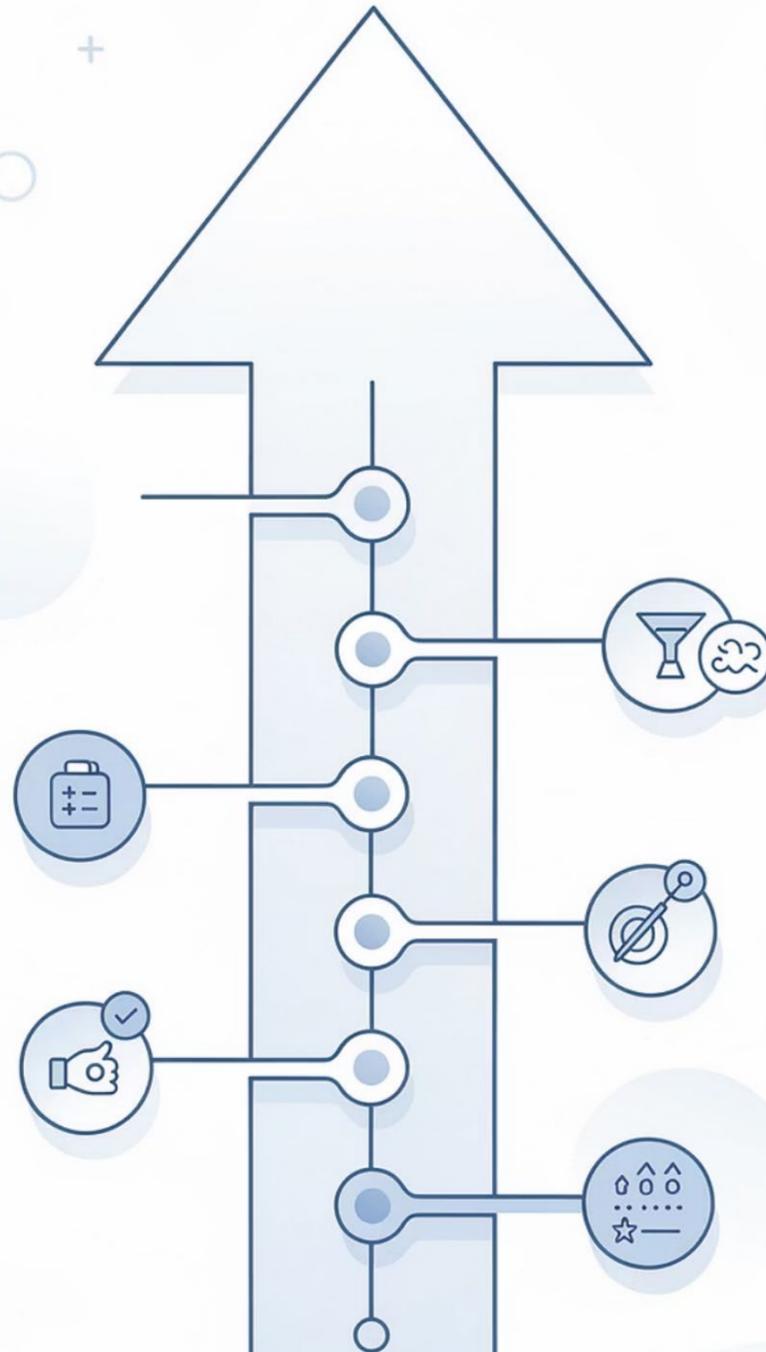


LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.

Feb. 2025: Crafted a shared vision together...

- "Arizona needs comprehensive data literacy training for K-12 educators, principals, and school leaders"
- One year ago – together you crafted what this could look like – a program to transform how educators understand and use data to improve student outcomes



Feb. 2026: Now, we're building it!

- 3 Certificates + the MEd they can stack into have been submitted! *(To Curricular Affairs + AZ Online)*
- Faculty team assembled
- Partnership infrastructure taking shape – ***this is just one place we need you!***
- Marketing efforts are now kicking off – ***this is another!***

What We've Accomplished Since Last Year

Three Stackable Certificates Designed

- Research Literacy
- Evaluation Literacy
- Data-Based Decision Making

Each certificate stands alone or builds to the full MEd degree!

\$30,000 College Investment Secured

- Evaluation Literacy certificate development fully funded
- Led by Dr. Adriana Cimetta and the Center for Educational Assessment, Research, and Evaluation (CEARE) team

Courses are being developed now and will be ready for Fall 2026!



AZOnline Proposal Under Review

- Development support decision expected soon
- Partnership will enable robust online delivery infrastructure for working professionals + lower tuition rates

AZO is open to delivery of all certificates + the full MEd program!

Curricular Affairs Submissions Complete

- **Certificates:** Approval expected for Fall 2026 launch - *Evaluation Literacy is already up for that semester!*
- **MEd:** Approval expected for Spring 2027 launch

All documentation submitted and under formal review now!

Building the Foundation: Key Partnerships



Cross-Departmental Faculty

Drawing expertise from across the College of Education:

- Educational Psychology (lead department)
- Teaching, Learning & Sociocultural Studies
- Educational Policy Studies & Practice



Helios Decision Center for Educational Excellence

- Access to real Arizona K-12 educational data
- Drs. Summers, Cimetta (& Perkl on Zoom) visited Center
- Data integration into curriculum design underway
- Students will work with actual state-level datasets



Southern AZ School Districts

- Six districts actively engaged: TUSD, SUSD, Vail, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Sahuarita (AMPHI)
- Data sharing agreements in progress
- Applied learning opportunities in real school settings
- Pipeline for student recruitment in progress



Members of the PPB

- Helios is interested in proof of teacher interest to consider sponsoring funding
- Helping develop/participate in the pipeline for student recruitment
- Ensuring our plans meet your needs

30-Credit MEd in Data Literacy for Education

	<p>Stack 3 Certificates + 2 Credits of Independent Study = MEd in Data Literacy for Education! Fully Online Stackable Certificates Designed for Working Educator Expected launch: Spring 2027 Skills: All of the below + culminating mentored experience.</p>
	<p>Research Literacy (10 credits) Skills: Analyze, summarize, synthesize, and interpret educational research data to make informed decisions about teaching and learning</p>
	<p>Data-Based Decision Making (9 credits) Skills: Use real-time classroom and school data to modify instruction, track student progress, and improve outcomes at individual and systems levels</p>
	<p>Evaluation Literacy (9 credits) LAUNCHING FALL 2026 Skills: Design and implement rigorous program evaluations, conduct needs assessments, and make evidence-based decisions about educational interventions</p>

Coming Soon: Research Literacy



What This Equips People To Do:

- Make sense of test scores and assessment data across your school or district
- Spot patterns and equity gaps in student performance
- Evaluate whether research studies actually apply to your context



Courses (10 Credits Total):

- Introduction to Statistics in Education (A & B: 4 Credits)
- Educational Tests & Measurement (3 Credits)
- Introduction to Educational Research (3 Credits)

Planned Opening: Spring 2027

Coming Soon: Data-Based Decision Making



What This Equips People To Do:

- Use classroom data (and AI tools?) to adjust instruction in real time
- Lead data teams that actually improve student outcomes
- Make data-driven decisions that center equity



Courses (9 Credits Total):

- Data Literacy (3 Credits)
- Advanced Data Literacy (3 Credits)
- Culturally Responsive Data Use (3 Credits)

Planned Opening: Summer 2027

Introducing: Evaluation Literacy



What This Equips People To Do:

- Design evaluations for programs in your classroom or school
- Collect and analyze real data to see what's working
- Make evidence-based decisions about what to keep, change, or stop



Courses (9 Credits Total):

- Educational Evaluation(3 Credits)
- Advanced Educational Evaluation (3 Credits)
- Independent Study (3 Credits)

Courses are on the Fall 2026 schedule now!

Start the Data Literacy Journey Today

Early Enrollment Advantage

Anyone can enroll in Fall 2026 courses as a non-degree seeking student!

This allows learners to start earning credits toward data literacy goals immediately.

Flexible Credit Transfer

Seamlessly transfer earned credits once the certificate is fully approved:

- Up to 6 NDS credits can be applied towards the Evaluation Literacy Certificate (or any certificate!)
- Up to 12 NDS credits can count towards the full 30-credit MEd in Data Literacy for Education.

Get Started

Visit the application portal for non-degree seeking students and learn more about course registration.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

COMING FALL 2026: EVALUATION LITERACY CERTIFICATE!

REGISTRATION BEGINS IN MAY 2026

The first step in a stackable certificate pathway culminating in an *M.Ed in Data Literacy for Educators*

WHY THIS CERTIFICATE?

- Only 3 required 7.5-week courses
- Work with real school and district data
- Make recommendations for policy and practice with a project-based analysis
- Helps qualify you as a data coach for your school or district

HOW TO APPLY & ENROLL?

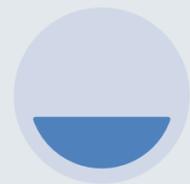
- **Current UA grad students:** Can enroll directly themselves
- **New students:** Apply via GradApp for Non-Degree Seeking status or apply to any graduate degree and add this 9-unit certificate

QUESTIONS?

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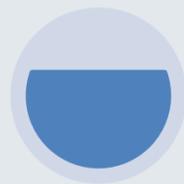
Kick-off & development: Here's where we need you!



Summer 2026

Applications open
for Evaluation
Literacy
Certificate

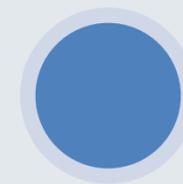
Design +
development of
other certificate
courses



Fall 2026

Evaluation
Literacy
Certificate
launches

First program
cohort begins



Spring 2027

All 3 Certificates
available

Full MEd program
launches



Word Cloud: What's your biggest question,
hope, or concern about AI in K-12 right now?
(1-2 words)



Table Talk: What Do Your Educators Need?

1. What AI-related data challenges are your educators facing right now?

2. What do you need your teachers/principals to be able to DO with AI when making data-based decisions (now and in the future)?

3. What would make this program a "must-have" vs. "nice-to-have" for your district's professional development goals?

4. *(if time allows)* What concerns do you have about AI integration in educator training?



Whole Group Share! Tell us what you think.





Thank you!

We look forward to hearing from you.

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