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Nova Southeastern University

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Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Launches A Distance Doctoral Program in Dispute Resolution

October 1998

The Department of Dispute Resolution at NSU is launching a new Ph.D. program in a distance format to accommodate and meet the needs of working adults in the fields of peacemaking and conflict resolution. The development of distance doctoral studies is based on the solid residential academic programs where we attract life-long learners from all over the world who are committed to academic excellence, social responsibility, and informed, reflective practices.

The distance Ph.D. program develops an optimal combination of innovative learning models, teaching approaches, and interactive media so that working adults do not have to relocate to study for their doctorate and enhance their career development. It offers the students weeklong, limited-residential institutes, on-line seminars, and individualized systematic studies. This flexible format will also allow and encourage mid-career working adults to define and shape their intellectual and practice paths in a creative, rigorous, and structured fashion.

At NSU, students are challenged with dynamic, innovative, and holistic approaches to learning. In the current residential graduate programs, students’ backgrounds are as varied as their geographic distribution: community mediators and organizers, public administrators, business managers, court personnel, trainers, teachers, therapists, social workers, pastors, police officers, doctors, urban planners, organization consultants, human resources professionals, social services workers, government employees, NGO practitioners, customer service agents, resident directors, and college professors. 36% of the students are from minority groups and 66% of the students are female, who came from 24 states and 17 countries.

The 82-credit-hour program includes courses of theoretical foundations, history and development of the field, research methods, practica, skill development, and substantive topic areas in the field. The program will
admit its first group of distance doctoral students next summer in preparation for commencement of their Ph.D. studies in September 1999. While the department is developing distance programs for the field, it will continue to support and enhance its **residential programs** (i.e., Graduate Certificate, M.S., and Ph.D. Programs) that are offered on campus.

The NSU is located in the beautiful, vigorous metropolitan area of Fort Lauderdale and is the largest private university in Florida. For detailed curriculum and admissions information about the residential and distance graduate programs, please contact:

Department of Dispute Resolution  
School of Social and Systemic Studies  
Nova Southeastern University (NSU), 3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314  
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Fax: (954) 262-3968  
Toll Free: (800) 262-7978  
E-Mail: CR@ssss.nova.edu  
Website Home Page: [http://www.nova.edu/ssss/DR/adr.html](http://www.nova.edu/ssss/DR/adr.html)

**FACULTY**

* **Thomas E. Boudreau**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Social Science, M.A. in Political Science  


* **Sean Byrne**, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. and M.A. in International Relations, MSSC Political Science  
Teaching and Research Interests: International Conflict Management, Institutional & Organizational Analysis, Theories of Conflict & Conflict Resolution, Ethnic & Intergroup Conflict, Qualitative Research, ADR Applications, and Children/Education and Conflict.


* **Douglas G. Buck**, NSU Associate Vice President for Human Resources, D.P.A.  
Teaching and Research Interests: Community Mediation, Commercial Arbitration, and Personnel Management.
* Ronald J. Chenail, Dean and Associate Professor, Ph.D. in Family Therapy, M.Ed. in Educational Psychology with Counseling Specialization
Teaching and Research Interests: Discourse in Therapy & Mediation, Family Mediation, and Qualitative Inquiry.


* Nora Femenia, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Social Science, M.S. in International Relations


* Brian D. Polkinghorn, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Social Science, M.S. in Conflict Resolution
Teaching and Research Interests: Environmental/Public Policy Dispute Resolution, Environmental Law, Multi-Party Conflict Intervention, Negotiation Theory & Practice, and Ethics of Third-Party Intervention.


* Ruzica Rosandic, Visiting Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Psychology, M.S. in Psychology
Teaching and Research Interests: Peace Education, Negotiation Theory & Practice, School-Based Conflict Resolution, and Violence Prevention.


* Marcia Sweedler, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Education Policy, Planning & Administration, M.S. in Education
Teaching and Research Interests: Family Mediation, Communication, Gender & Conflict, Mediation Research, Violence Prevention, Conflict Resolution in Organizations, Education Systems and Communities.


* Cathie J. Witty, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. in Anthropology, M.P.A. in Public Administration
Teaching and Research Interests: Legal Anthropology, Cross-Cultural & Comparative Dispute Resolution, Qualitative Research, and Gerontology.


* Honggang Yang, Chair and Associate Professor, Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology, Master of Jurisprudence in Social Psychology & Sociology
Teaching and Research Interests: Cultural & Cross-Cultural Issues in Conflict Resolution, Qualitative Methods in Peace & Conflict Research, Reflective Practice, Anthropology of Law, and Graduate Distance Learning.


ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Ann Booth, Academic Administrator
Janice Burgoyne, Administrative Coordinator
Jon Breedlove, Practicum Coordinator
Allison H. Herbert, Secretary

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs.

ACCREDITATION

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number (404) 679-4501) to award bachelor’s, master’s, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.