

Heather C. Roberson, PhD

Program Director and Assistant Professor, Master of Public Administration

Biography

Dr. Roberson has a BA in Political Science, an MA in Political Science with a focus on Comparative Politics and International Relations, along with a PhD in Public Policy and Administration with a specialization in Leadership and Management. She has over 25 years of experience in higher education, specifically focusing on high-quality online and hybrid courses. Dr. Roberson also served in public office at the local level and on various public boards throughout her career and has seven years of experience as a compliance and government relations professional in the private sector.

Teaching and Research Interests

Dr. Roberson understands how important it is to have access to graduate opportunities that permit individuals the flexibility to continue to work in their chosen field while pursuing their degree. To that end, her teaching interests center on innovative practices that create a supportive and engaging online learning environment. Dr. Roberson's current research interests include leadership development in the public sector; collaboration and stakeholder involvement as part of policymaking and program evaluation; and the value of qualitative research methods as companions to AI-generated data sets in the public sector.

Publications and Presentations (last five years)

Publications

Female Leaders: Paths to Leadership in the Florida State Legislature - 2019

Presentations

Presenter and Moderator at American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) 2024: Impact of Women Leaders on Social Equity – Minneapolis, MN – April 2024

Presenter and Moderator: The Spirit of Compromise: The Value and Strength of Compromise from a Social Science Perspective – St. Petersburg College - September 2022 and 2023

Learning from a Pathways College – Des Moines Area Community College, Urban Campus – January 2022

Teaching with Zoom in all modalities to increase student engagement – St. Petersburg College - 2020 and 2021

Panelist – Workplace Dynamics in the Era of #MeToo – Firehouse Cultural Center - April 2019

LMU and other Professional Service

LMU Faculty Senate, 2024/2025

Member, American Society for Public Administration

Member, American Political Science Association