Admission Requirements
Admission to candidacy in the department is contingent upon admission to the Western Illinois University School of Graduate Studies. By the time nine (9) semester hours (sh) of Educational Leadership Program coursework at WIU has been completed, a candidate must have fulfilled all of the School of Graduate Studies and the Educational Leadership Program’s admission requirements. Evaluation for admission to candidacy in the Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree, or for the superintendent endorsement, is based upon the following:
• A master’s degree in educational administration/leadership from an accredited university or principal licensure
• Official Graduate Study Plan, approved by the department
• Successful completion of 6 sh of 600-level coursework with grades of “B” or better
• Successful completion of the Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP-400) or a 22 composite on the ACT with writing
• Superintendent recommendation
• On-site written essay
• On-site interview
• Leadership portfolio
• Two years of full-time administrative or supervisory experience in a general administrative position, or as a principal, director of special education or chief school business official

Superintendent’s Endorsement Track
Persons seeking a superintendent’s endorsement through Western must complete the following 30 sh of coursework including EDL 655 and EDL 656 (internship), and have a minimum of four years of administrative experience requiring a principal endorsement or its equivalent:
• EDL 600 Evaluating Educational Programs (3 sh)
• EDL 620 Policy, Influence and Educational Governance (3 sh)
• EDL 622 Human Resources Leadership (3 sh)
• EDL 623 Superintendent Seminar I: Collective Bargaining (1 sh)
• EDL 627 School Business Management (3 sh)
• EDL 635 Educational Facilities (1 sh)
• EDL 640 The Educational Executive (3 sh)
• EDL 671 Learning Systems Leadership (3 sh)
• EIS 607 Implications of Diversity (3 sh)
• EDL 701 Quantitative Research and Statistics I (3 sh)
• EDL 655 Superintendent Internship I (2 sh)
• EDL 656 Superintendent Internship II (2 sh)
Total Program: 30 sh

Ed.S. Degree Track
The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Educational Leadership requires a minimum of 30 sh to be selected in consultation with the student’s adviser, if approved by the Graduate Committee. The student may earn a superintendent endorsement after completing the degree program.

Courses Required of all Ed.S. Degree Candidates:
• EDL 600 Evaluating Educational Programs (3 sh)
• EDL 640 The Educational Executive (3 sh)
• EDL 671 Learning Systems Leadership (3 sh)
• EDL 681 Research in Educational Leadership (3 sh)
• EIS 607 Implications of Diversity (3 sh)
• Electives to be selected in consultation with the student’s adviser (15 sh)
Total Program: 30 sh
Career Opportunities
Graduates of the superintendent endorsement program are qualified to serve as assistant superintendents, curriculum directors and superintendents in school districts in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Distinctive Features
Courses are delivered in a weekend academy format. Classes meet from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Sundays. Coursework for this program is offered on the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses and in Lake County. Coursework in the program is problem-based and is focused on issues faced by PK-12 administrators.

Students exiting the program have indicated they are well-prepared to deal with the demands of the superintendent.

Faculty
The faculty members of the Educational Leadership Program have a strong interest in helping highly-successful principals make the transition from school building administrators to district-level administrators. As transformational leaders, they can improve educational opportunities for all students in the district. Educational Leadership Program faculty hold doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership and other related fields. Their professional experiences include service as assistant principals, principals, curriculum directors, associate superintendents and district superintendents.

Educational Leadership faculty are actively involved in professional organizations, work with school districts on school improvement and provide inservice opportunities to teachers and administrators. They are accomplished authors, as demonstrated by their published books and articles in state and national journals. They also are active in presenting their research at professional meetings at the state and national levels.

Accreditation
The superintendent preparation program is accredited through the Education Leadership Constituent Council (ELCC) and has been approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Western Illinois University’s licensure officer is authorized to approve endorsement for students seeking superintendent endorsement in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Featured Alum
“The Education Specialist program, offered through Western Illinois University, provided me with the skills necessary for my career. The instructors are knowledgeable and present the coursework in a manner that made it relevant and applicable in the field. Choosing WIU was a great decision.”

– Matt DeBaene
Assistant Superintendent for Assessment and Accountability
Moline-Coal Valley Community School District

Financial Aid
Financial aid information is available at wiu.edu/fa.

“What a quality program! We are fortunate to have such an outstanding Ed.S. program offered right here at WIU, on the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. Our professors are accessible, knowledgeable and true leaders in the field of education. I believe WIU’s Ed.S. program is the best in the Midwest!”

Chad M. Cox, May 2015
Principal, Avon Elementary School and Abingdon-Avon Middle School