

Doctorate in Education in Educational Leadership



The Educational Leadership Program at Western Illinois University offers a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) degree for practicing administrators, educational leaders, curriculum and instruction leaders, those pursuing careers in higher education and researchers. Educational leaders who wish to make a difference in their school district, regional office, educational agency or organization will find the doctoral course of study and research component powerful tools in improving organizational performance. The mission of the Educational Leadership Program is to prepare transformational leaders who cultivate exemplary learning organizations. Doctoral classes are offered in Lake County (IL), in Macomb (IL) and in Moline (IL) by videoconferencing, hybrid and face-to-face instruction. Faculty support for student research and advising is offered at all three campuses.

Admission Requirements

The doctoral program faculty at Western Illinois University expect cohort students to enter with the prerequisite knowledge, skills and dispositions of an effective leader. Applicants should complete the following steps in the admissions process:

1. Apply for admission to the doctoral program simultaneously with admission to the WIU School of Graduate Studies. Applications for admission to the School of Graduate Studies must be made using forms obtained online at wiu.edu/grad. Departmental admission application forms should be obtained directly from the Educational Leadership Program online at wiu.edu/es.
2. Request official transcripts (one copy of each) documenting bachelor's degree and all graduate-level coursework attempted be sent directly to the School of Graduate Studies from the credit-granting institution. Transcripts must document completion of a master's degree in Educational Leadership (or equivalent).
3. Submit a leadership portfolio to the Educational Leadership Program, which demonstrates leadership impact for an educational organization.
4. Request references, using the reference form, from two individuals who are familiar with the applicant's professional work.
5. Complete a writing sample.
6. Submit a complete résumé to the Educational Leadership Program.

Each applicant will be interviewed by the program's faculty screening committee to review application materials, the portfolio and discuss the applicant's academic and career objectives.

Faculty

WIU faculty are dedicated educators, skilled in fostering active class participation through classroom discussions and social networking. They are active scholars engaged in numerous research and consulting endeavors to promote the profession and practice of educational leadership. Their professional experience includes service as school district superintendents and other executive-level positions, principals and consultants.

Career Opportunities

Educational leaders, who complete their doctoral degrees, have a wide range of career opportunities to serve at all levels of education. Graduates are in demand as researchers, in state and federal departments of education, private consulting firms, educational service agencies, colleges and universities and school districts.



Program Location:

Macomb, Quad Cities, Lake County

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

Lora Wolff, doctoral coordinator
Western Illinois University
Horrabin 115
(309) 298-1776

General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad



Western Illinois
University

Degree Requirements – Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

Courses required in the Ed.D. program are provided by the WIU Department of Educational Studies:

Doctoral Core Courses (12 SH)

EDL 710 Global Perspectives in Leadership	3 SH
EDL 711 Transforming Educational Organizations	3 SH
EDL 712 Managing Organizational Resources	2 SH
EDS 747 Education for Social Justice: Politics, Ethics and Policy	3 SH
EDL 700 Seminar in Doctoral Studies	1 SH

Research Core (9 SH)

EDL 682 Field Studies in Qualitative Research	3 SH
EDL 701 Quantitative Research and Statistics I	3 SH
EDS 702 Quantitative Research and Statistics II	3 SH

Dissertation Core (18 SH)

EDL 715 Dissertation Studies I	3 SH
EDL 725 Dissertation Studies II	3 SH
EDL 770 Comprehensive Examination in Educational Leadership	0 SH
EDL 790 Doctoral Research and Dissertation	minimum of 12 SH

Directed Electives (9 SH)

Electives to be selected in consultation with the student’s advisor.

Select one area of focus (12 SH)

A. PreK-12 Education Option

EDL 600 Evaluating Educational Programs	3 SH
EDL 622 Human Resources Leadership	3 SH
EDL 640 The Educational Executive	3 SH
EDL 671 Learning Systems Leadership	3 SH

B. Post-Secondary Option

EDL 557 Special Problems in Educational Leadership	3 SH
EDL 600 Evaluating Educational Programs	3 SH
EDL 570 Seminar in College Teaching	3 SH
EDL 720 Coalition Building	3 SH

Total program: 60 SH

Program Opportunities

This doctoral program offers the unique opportunity to develop collaborative relationships with other candidates in a cohort model; investigate topics and issues of interest and benefit to institutions in which they are employed; work with a highly qualified statistician; and have classroom and faculty support throughout the dissertation process.



The dissertation experience is facilitated by a chairperson and a minimum of two other committee members drawn from the Educational Leadership Program and one additional member from the WIU College of Education and Human Services.

The program is delivered in a weekend academy format. Courses meet three weekends (Saturdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.). Some courses are delivered in a hybrid model. Generally, there are one or two weekends between course meetings. Students take two courses each semester. Coursework is offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

Financial Aid

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

Featured Alum

“The WIU doctoral program has enhanced my skills in many ways, but I think most importantly, it has broadened my perspective. The readings, the outreach to observe and communicate with professionals in the field, and the interaction with the educators in my cohort have all helped me understand and appreciate the complexity of affecting change in schools. The experience has increased the likelihood that I will be able to affect change, which is really what is supposed to happen, I think (and hope).”



– Mark Hansen, Doctoral Graduate
Superintendent, Eastland CUSD #308



“The EDL doctoral program made me an even stronger superintendent. The veteran professors in the program came from the trenches and were knowledgeable, engaging and responsive to student needs. The hot button educational issues we discussed made me even more passionate about servant leadership and making a difference in the lives of my district’s stakeholders. Best of all, the educational leaders in our cohort built a strong collegial relationship that will endure in the years to come.”

– John Ulferts, Superintendent-Principal, Shirland School District