

Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Principal Endorsement



The Educational Leadership program at Western Illinois University offers a comprehensive graduate academic program in educational leadership, leading to the Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) degree and principal endorsement. The M.S.Ed. degree program concentrates on the general background knowledge and skills needed for entry-level positions in educational leadership. The endorsement option prepares students for appointments as public school principals, assistant principals and deans of students. Courses are delivered in weekend academy format.

Admission Requirements

Admission to candidacy in the Western Illinois University Educational Leadership program is contingent upon admission to the WIU School of Graduate Studies and meeting the Educational Leadership program's admission requirements. Evaluation for admission to candidacy is based upon the following:

- Successful completion of the Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP-400) or a 22 composite on the ACT with writing
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- On-site written essay
- On-site interview
- Portfolio – includes evidence of student growth in two different school years
- Principal recommendation
- Superintendent recommendation
- Two years of teaching experience in a K-12 accredited educational institution

The educational leadership Graduate Committee will make the final decision on a candidate's admission.

Principal Endorsement Track

Persons seeking principal endorsement or licensure (Illinois, Iowa or Missouri) through WIU must have a master's degree, or must complete a Master of Science in Education degree in Educational Leadership. The endorsement program requires **four** years of full-time teaching experience and includes the following 40 SH of coursework:

- EDL 500 Leadership Development (3 SH)
- EDL 504 Leading the Core Curriculum (3 SH)
- EDL 508 School Leadership and Technology (3 SH)
- EDL 510 Data for School Leaders (3 SH)
- EDL 515 Fundamentals of School Law (3 SH)

- EDL 520 Leadership for Special Needs (3 SH)
- EDL 525 Integrating Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (3 SH)
- EDL 528 Supervision of Instruction (3 SH)
- EDL 530 Managing School Finance, Facilities and Contracts (3 SH)
- EDL 540 School Improvement (3 SH)
- EDL 545 School, Parent, and Community Relations (3 SH)
- EDL 550 Principal as Instructional Leader I (2 SH)
- EDL 551 Principal as Instructional Leader II (1 SH)
- EDL 555 Principal Internship I (2 SH)
- EDL 556 Principal Internship II (2 SH)

M.S.Ed. Educational Leadership Track

The M.S.Ed. degree in Educational Leadership requires a minimum of 33 semester hours (with 24 SH or more in Educational Leadership courses from WIU) to be selected in consultation with the student's adviser and approved by the educational leadership Graduate Committee. The student may earn principal endorsement in K-12 administration after completing the degree program.

Courses Required of All M.S.Ed. Degree Candidates

- EDL 500 Leadership Development (3 SH)
- EDL 504 Leading the Core Curriculum (3 SH)
- EDL 508 School Leadership and Technology (3 SH)
- EDL 510 Data for School Leaders (3 SH)
- EDL 515 Fundamentals of School Law (3 SH)
- EDL 520 Leadership for Special Needs (3 SH)
- EDL 525 Integrating Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (3 SH)
- EDL 528 Supervision of Instruction (3 SH)
- EIS 500 Methods of Research (3 SH)
- Electives to be selected in consultation with the student's adviser (6 SH)

Program Location:
Macomb, Quad Cities

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

Educational Leadership program
Horrabin Hall 115, Macomb campus
(309) 298-1070
wiu.edu/es

General admission questions:

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

Faculty

Faculty in the Educational Leadership program have a strong interest in helping highly successful teachers make the transition from the classroom to school district leaders. As transformational leaders, principals can improve educational opportunities for all students in the school. Educational Leadership 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 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 very active in presenting their research at professional meetings at the state and national levels.

Featured Alum

“The Educational Leadership program at Western Illinois University allowed me the opportunity to collaborate and work with colleagues in a way that helped me grow professionally.”

—Ariane Taft
Special Education Teacher
Pekin High School

Distinctive Features

- Weekend academy format (Saturdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)
- Students progress through the program with a cohort
- Multi-state (Illinois, Iowa and Missouri) licensure options
- Inquiry-based learning
- Multiple fieldwork experiences
- Practice-focused curriculum
- Student-centered faculty
- Faculty with extensive experience in school leadership roles
- In-state tuition for all students
- Year-long principal internship
- Diversity Partners Scholarship
- Ranger Scholarship



Accreditation

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

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the licensure program are qualified to serve as assistant principals, principals, deans of students and in other school positions requiring an initial administrative license in school districts in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Financial Aid

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



“The Master of Science in Education program offered by Western Illinois University offered opportunities to build my abilities and talents as a professional. Through the coursework, collaboration with other educators and professors and internship experiences, my knowledge has increased in a wide variety of areas, which are beneficial in my role as an effective administrator and leader.”

—Tammy Muerhoff
Regional Superintendent of Schools
Rock Island County Regional Office of Education