

Educational Leadership Studies

College of Education

The Department of Educational Leadership Studies offers programs leading to the Master of Education (M.Ed) degree, the Specialist in Education (Ed.S) degree, and the Doctor of Education (Ed.D) degree in Educational Leadership Studies. These programs are designed to prepare candidates for leadership positions in P-12 schools and other educational agencies or for the professorship in educational administration. The department has participated in a Cooperative Doctoral Program with four regional comprehensive universities and may continue as needed.

Admission to Programs

The Department of Educational Leadership Studies delivers its programs through cohorts that begin in the fall semester. Prospective students must complete two applications—one to the department, one to the UK Graduate School. Instructions and application forms are posted on the [department's website](#). All applicants must submit to the department (a) official transcripts for all previous coursework completed at any institution of higher education and (b) official scores on all three sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). All programs require students to have access to and use information technology. Deadline for application submission to any program is April 1.

Master of Education

The Master of Education (MEd) in Educational Leadership Studies is a degree program with an option for certification as a school principal in Kentucky. The certification program requires 33 hours of coursework and leads to a letter of eligibility for the Instructional Leader, School Principalship, All Grades professional certificate. Students may achieve Rank II (initial master's degree) or Rank I (30 credit hours beyond initial master's degree) designations through this MEd program. Courses in the MEd program may require students to complete field-based assignments in schools or with the support of a practicing administrator.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the M.Ed. program follows the basic requirements of the Department of Educational Leadership Studies and the UK Graduate School as specified above. Those seeking admission to the M.Ed. tied to principal certification must meet the following additional requirements established by the Educational Professional Standards Board:

1. A cumulative 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale for all collegiate work;
2. Eligibility for a Kentucky classroom teaching certificate;
3. Successful completion of the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) or two years documented teaching experience outside Kentucky;
4. Successful completion of three years full-time teaching; and
5. Passing score on the national examination required for Kentucky teacher certification.

Program exit requirements for the M.Ed. include:

1. A cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale for coursework completed in the program;
2. Successful completion of the Level I and II portfolio reviews; and
3. Successful defense of the Level II portfolio or other capstone project during a formal oral examination.

Graduates of the M.Ed. program tied to principal certification must meet the following additional requirements before a letter of eligibility can be sent to the Educational Professional Standards Board:

1. Master's degree in education from an accredited institution;

2. Three years full-time teaching experience;
3. Successful completion of all program requirements; and
4. Passing scores on national and state tests as specified by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board.

Specialist in Education

The Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) degree in Educational Leadership Studies offers a practice-oriented, academic program intended to serve two interrelated and complementary purposes:

1. To provide professional educators with an opportunity to develop specialized expertise in the area of educational leadership with a focus on school administration and instructional supervision; and
2. To provide those professional educators who desire it, a bridge from their master's-level academic work to doctoral-level study in a specialized area of educational administration and supervision.

Ed.S. Curriculum

The Ed.S. program is divided into two segments. The first consists of 33 credit hours of formal coursework that can be structured to meet the subject-matter requirements for Kentucky certification as a school principal, as an instructional supervisor, or as a district superintendent or to meet the professional development needs of the student. Many courses in the Ed.S. program require candidates to complete field-based assignments in schools, district offices, or other education-oriented settings.

The second segment of the EdS program requires the design, implementation, and submission of a formal written report of a field-based inquiry project. The research component of the Ed.S. program requires candidates to enroll in EDL 785 Independent Work in School Administration for at least 3 credit hours or for a maximum of 6 credit hours. EdS candidates must successfully defend their field-based inquiry project during a formal oral examination.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the EdS program requires a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and follows the basic requirements of the Department of Educational Leadership Studies and the UK Graduate School as specified above. Applicants who plan to apply EdS courses toward administrator certification (e.g., school principal, instructional supervisor) must meet all additional requirements imposed by the Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board. Contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Education Leadership Studies for information about entry and exit requirements for the specific advanced certification sought.

Doctor of Education

The Department of Educational Leadership Studies offers the Doctor of Education (EdD) with emphasis on preparing scholar-practitioners to assume leadership in diverse educational settings. Each student develops a program of study with three essential elements: (1) the core curriculum; (2) a program major emphasis; and (3) a research sequence. Program content and experiences integrate leadership theory and its application, learning organizations, educational improvement and innovation, educational technology, comparison of educational leadership practiced locally and internationally, economics of education, law and policy, research methods for educational leader, and leadership development of self and others.

EdD Curriculum

The EdD program consists of a minimum of 42 credit hours of graduate-level coursework and a minimum of 4 credit hours (two semesters) of EDL 767 Dissertation Residency Credit as required by the UK Graduate School. Students must remain enrolled in EDL 767 from the semester they sit for their Qualifying Examination through semester they defend their dissertation. Internships for graduate students can be arranged with public school systems and other educational agencies.

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available for EdD students. These involve up to 20 hours per week of service to the department or some other unit of the University, designed in such a way that the work contributes to the educational or leadership development of the student. A modest stipend is paid for this service. The University also provides some financial aid in the form of loans and fellowships.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the EdD program requires a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education and follows the basic requirements of the Department of Educational Leadership Studies and the UK Graduate School as specified above. Applicants who plan to use courses for administrator certification (e.g., school principal, instructional supervisor, district administrator) as their major program emphasis must meet all additional requirements imposed by the Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board. Applicants should contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Education Leadership Studies for information about entry and exit requirements for the specific advanced certification sought.

Graduate Courses

EDL 600	Organization And Administration Of American Education	(3)
EDL 601	Introduction To School Leadership And Administration	(3)
EDL 610	School Leadership Practicum I: Summer	(1)
EDL 611	School Leadership Practicum II	(1)
EDL 612	School Leadership Practicum III	(1)
EDL 625	School Safety And Discipline Leadership	(3)
EDL 627	School Finance And Support Services	(3)
EDL 628	School Law And Ethics	(3)
EDL 629	The Principal	(3)
EDL 631	Leadership For School Program Collaboration	(3)
EDL 632	Administration Of Educational Reform	(3)
EDL 634	Leadership For Human Resources Development In Schools	(3)
EDL 638	The Supervisor	(3)
EDL 639	The School Superintendency	(3)
EDL 642	Microcomputer Applications In Administration	(3)
EDL 646	Leadership For School Community Relations	(3)
EDL 649	School System Administration	(3)
EDL 650	Leadership For School Program Improvement	(3)
EDL 651	Foundations Of Inquiry	(3)
EDL 659	Strategic Management In Education	(3)
EDL 669	Leadership For School Problem-Solving	(3)
EDL 679	School Superintendent Practicum I: Spring	(1)
EDL 680	School Superintendent Practicum Ii: Summer	(1)
EDL 681	School Superintendent Practicum Iii: Fall	(1)
EDL 694	The Administration Of Vocational Education (Same as AED/HEE 694)	(3)
EDL 701	Leadership In Educational Organizations I	(3)
EDL 702	Leadership In Educational Organizations Ii	(3)
EDL 749	Dissertation Research	(0)
EDL 767	Dissertation Residency Credit	(2)
EDL 769	Residence Credit For The Doctor's Degree	(0-12)
EDL 770	Topical Seminar In Educational Leadership	(1-3)
EDL 771	Seminar In Administration	(1-3)
EDL 785	Independent Work In School Administration	(3)
EDL 792	Research In Educational Administration And Supervision	(3)