

EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Available online

The purpose of the Education Specialist in Educational Leadership is to prepare leaders who will make a difference as moral agents and sensitive social advocates for the children and the communities they serve; who will focus on the central issues of learning and teaching and school improvement; who will make strong connections as they reflect Christian values with others as individuals and as members of the educational community.

Program Delivery and Calendar: Students will be accepted into cohorts who will complete the program utilizing an innovative delivery system designed to meet the needs of educators. In the final spring semester, IL students take the Praxis II School Leader's Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for licensure. The program enables the candidates to advance through Tennessee's licensure system. Passing this test is also a requirement for graduation.

Objectives of the Program

Students in the Ed.S. in Educational Leadership Program will:

1. Demonstrate within their disciplines advanced knowledge and skills.
2. Display competency in the critical evaluation of issues, trends and methodologies.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply research that extends the body of knowledge in the field.
4. Enhance their ethical decision-making ability through an academic environment integrated with the Christian faith.
5. Build intellectual and moral knowledge to cope with a pluralistic world in order to better serve communities and their schools.

The objectives are met within the context of a set of standards developed by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council of the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

The Leadership in School Reform cohort completes courses online in a predetermined sequence with most activities being asynchronous. Occasionally, School Reform students will be expected to participate in synchronous webinars, which are planned in advance.

Each cohort is presented its unique calendar for the complete program. Current Ed.S. calendars are available at www.uu.edu/eds/

Curriculum: Ed.S. in Educational Leadership: Instructional Leadership

Prerequisites: Human Growth and Development, Instructional Technology, Educational Assessment and 3 years of teaching experience.

Transfer Credit by Petition: Maximum of 12 Semester Hours may be applied.

Licensure: This program leads to a recommendation for licensure as a principal or supervisor of instruction in the State of Tennessee. It is designed to meet State of Tennessee licensure standards in school leadership.

- EDR 700—Research Issues in Educational Leadership
- EDU 702—Engaged Learning
- EDU 703—Supervision
- EDU 706—Organizational Decision Making
- EDU 707—Legal Issues in School Governance
- EDU 708—Curriculum and School Improvement
- EDU 714—Leadership Issues I—Theories and Strategies
- EDU 715—Leadership Issues II—Planning and Finance
- EDU 721—Literacy Across the Curriculum
- EDU 722—Teacher Leadership
- EDU 723—Faith and Ethics in Educational Leadership
- EDU 737, 738, 739—Leadership Practicum Summer, Fall, Spring or EDU 734—Leadership Internship
- EDU 786—Seminar: Multicultural and Diversity Issues in Education

Total: 39 hours

Exit Assessment:

- Completion of Practicum
- Completion of SLLA Exam
- Leadership Growth Paper
- Graduation

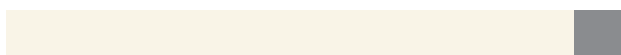
Program Description

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership is offered along three concentrations: (1) Instructional Leadership (IL), a licensure track designed to prepare school principals and supervisors of instruction; (2) Teacher Leadership, a non-licensure track designed for teacher leaders who desire knowledge of concepts and strategies for school and classroom leadership; and (3) Leadership in School Reform, a non-licensure track for educators with a degree, license, or experience in school leadership. The degree is based on Union's conceptual framework of A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith. Union University desires to prepare school leaders who are grounded in and committed to excellence in teaching and learning with values based on our Judeo-Christian heritage.

The Cohort Approach: The program accepts students in groups to pursue each course together in a cohort. Lifelong friendships are developed through this format, and learning takes place in a spirit of unity, rigor, and cooperation.

Curriculum: Ed.S. in Educational
Leadership: Teacher Leadership

Prerequisites Human Growth and Development,
Instructional Technology, Educational Assessment



Course Descriptions: Education (EDU)

600. Community Involvement in School Improvement (3)

A course designed to explore methods of increasing public engagement. Community, school, student, and parental values are explored with a view toward shared accountability for school improvement. Issues related to diversity within the community, schools, and learners will be addressed.

606. Accountability for Greater Student Learning (3)

This course views accountability as a joint effort between instructor and student. The following areas have been identified as essential factors in improving student performance: multiple methods of instruction, the use of formative evaluation, student perceptions, self-observation and critical reflection (teacher and student), and creative avenues for communicating content mastered.

702. Engaged Learning (3)

A contemporary account of the principles of learning with emphasis on engaging the learner in the classroom. Topics include concepts of teaching, learner characteristics, designs for learning environments, and effective teaching. Research in cognition, learning, and teaching forms a foundation for the course.

703. Supervision (3)

Analysis of supervisory models and techniques, management techniques and group processes, staffing patterns and organizational structures to support teaching and learning. Students develop skills in all aspects of instructional planning.

706. Organizational Decision Making (3)

Theoretical approaches to understanding complex organizations are examined and applied to educational organizations, drawn from organizational theory, development and behavior. Students develop effective solutions for interpersonal, structural, and organizational problems experienced in contemporary educational communities. Strategic planning for educational change, including technological, is studied.

707. Legal Issues in School Governance (3)

Areas of the law as it impacts school administrators are studied, including, but not limited to, sources of the law and the courts, the law and students and educational personnel, desegregation and its effects, school finance issues and school district liability, federal law and regulations involving special education.

708. Curriculum and School Improvement (3)

Study and evaluation of modern practices and strategies in curriculum development with the emphasis on school improvement. The process of curriculum planning with a focus on system accountability and student learning is studied.

714. Leadership Issues I: Theories and Strategies (3)

A thorough introduction to the essential issues of educational leadership including strategic planning, theories of leadership development, the change process, school improvement, comprehensive reform in schools, systems perspectives and more.

715. Leadership Issues II: Planning and Finance (3)

Prerequisite: EDU 714

An application of leadership issues related to planning and finance, including school improvement planning, policies for equity and diversity, the management of collective bargaining, fiscal and non-fiscal resources for districts, budget planning and management collaborative planning, use of media and more.

716. Purpose and Plan for Action Research (3)

Purpose and Plan for Action Research exposes students to the basic principles of action research. Emphasis is given to what constitutes action research and how it differs from other types of research. Topics include the process of scientific inquiry and data-driven decision making in an era of school reform. Students will learn how to generate research questions, collect and analyze data, and evaluate programs. Students will develop their own research projects, using relevant ideas based on the evaluation of initiatives in their own schools or school districts.

717. Entrepreneurial School Leadership (3)

In this course, students will learn the entrepreneurial side of school leadership. Emphasis will be placed on the school structure of charter schools and independent schools, especially the organizational differences between these types of schools and traditional public schools. Topics will include financing, and traditional public schools. Students will analyze the impact of technology on the public education system.

732. Leadership Growth Paper (3)

The Leadership Growth Paper is the culminating experience of the Ed.S. Program. The paper affords the Educational Leadership student the opportunity to engage in action-oriented research on a problem tied to school improvement. The problem is identified in EDU 708, and data is collected at the school or school system level. This course provides a context for completion of the paper by Teacher Leadership students.

734. Leadership Internship (3)

Prerequisite: Approval from Office of Graduate Studies in Education.

The internship for the Instructional Leadership concentration of the Ed.S. in Educational Leadership is a five-month, mentored experience involving two or more settings and multiple levels with an introductory field practicum of one month. It is the application