Graduate Program

The mission of the Department of Educational Leadership is to prepare transformational leaders who cultivate exemplary learning organizations.

The department offers a comprehensive graduate academic program leading to the Master of Science in Education (MSEd) and administrative certification. The MSEd degree program concentrates on the general background and skills needed for entry positions in educational leadership. The certification option prepares students for appointments as public school principals.

Faculty

Department of Educational Leadership faculty hold doctoral degrees from some of the finest universities in the United States. Their professional experience includes service as principals, business managers, curriculum directors, and district superintendents.

Faculty research and professional activities embrace all facets of P-12 education. Such real-life experience and scholarship are integrated into each professor's classroom thus enhancing the educational process.

Course Offerings

The coursework for this program is offered at both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. All courses are delivered in a weekend academy and distance learning formats. Summer coursework is available May through July.

Admission Requirements

Admission to candidacy in the department is contingent upon admission to the School of Graduate Studies. By the time 9 semester hours (sh) of Educational Leadership program coursework at Western have been completed, a candidate must have fulfilled all School of Graduate Studies and Educational Leadership department admission requirements. The final decision on a candidate's admission is made by the Department Graduate Committee.

Evaluation for admission to candidacy is based upon the following:

- Application
- Personal references
- On-site written essay
- On-site interview
- Grade point average(s)

International students must have an overall TOEFL score of at least 231 (575 paper score), with a listening comprehension score of 23 (58 paper score).

Administrative Certification

Students interested in obtaining a principal's endorsement (Type 75 General Administrative Certificate in Illinois) should declare that interest upon entering the program. In addition to completing the MSEd degree program, certification students are required to successfully complete an internship under the guidance of both a faculty adviser and field supervisor and pass any certification examination(s) in the state in which they seek to practice.

Degree Requirements

The MSEd degree requires successful completion of 38 sh, including 27 sh in Educational Leadership.

Courses Required of all MSEd Degree Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>18 sh</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDL 500 Leadership Development and Self-Assessment, 3 sh</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDL 505 School Improvement and Organizational Development, 3 sh</td>
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<td>EDL 517 Fundamentals of Education Law, 3 sh</td>
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<td>EDL 560 Supervision of Instruction, 3 sh</td>
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<td>EDL 571 Site-Based Curriculum Planning, 3 sh</td>
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<td>EIS 500/LEJA 503 Methods of Research, 3 sh</td>
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Educational Leadership Electives | 12 sh |
General Electives | 8 sh |
Total | 38 sh

Transfer of Credit: With the approval of a student's faculty program adviser, a maximum of 9 sh of graduate credit (grade of "B" or better and less than six years old) may be transferred from an accredited institution and included in the student's degree plan. Additional semester hours may be transferred from institutions with whom Western Illinois University has a consortia agreement. In all cases, however, a majority of all course credit must be earned through courses offered by the Department of Educational Leadership at Western Illinois University.
Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000) with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 13,000 students in the heart of west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere that is free from distractions. Western provides the low student-to-faculty ratio of 17:1 and an average class size of 25 students. Western’s 689 professors teach 95% of all undergraduate as well as graduate courses. Western’s presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. Western Illinois University is accredited by, among other accrediting bodies, the Higher Learning Commission, the North Central Association (NCA), and the North Central Association of Teacher Education (NCATE). The University fully complies with Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity principles.

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