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 an Education Specialist (EdS) degree and the administrative certification needed for public school superintendents.

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.

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 format. 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 in the Education Specialist or Type 75 Certificate is based upon the following:
- A master's degree in educational administration/leadership from an accredited university
- Recommendation by a sitting superintendent
- Transcript of all graduate work
- Writing sample
- Official Graduate Study Degree Plan approved by the department
- Completed application form
- Successful completion of EDL 600 or 640 with grade of “B” or better

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).

Degree and Certification Requirements
Students may be admitted to pursue a graduate degree and/or fulfill the academic requirements for administrative certification. The study plan is designed by the student in consultation with an assigned department faculty adviser. At the Education Specialist level, coursework in excess of the minimum may be necessary to eliminate Master's level deficiencies or meet prerequisite requirements.

The EdS degree in Educational Leadership requires a minimum of 35 SH (17 or more at the 600 level in Educational Leadership) to be selected in consultation with the student’s adviser. The student may choose to pursue a degree only or to also earn certification in K-12 administration.

Courses Required of all EdS Degree Candidates
- EDL 600 Organizational Leadership, 3 SH
- EDL 623 Collective Bargaining in Education, 3 SH
- EDL 640 The Educational Executive, 3 SH
- EDL 660 Instructional Leadership, 3 SH
- EDL 671 Curriculum Theory, 3 SH
- EDL 681 Research in Educational Leadership, 3 SH
- EIS 607 Implications of Diversity for Educational Leaders, 3 SH
- Electives to be selected in consultation with the student’s adviser, 14 SH

Total Degree Program: 35 SH

Additional Coursework for Superintendent Certification
- EDL 617 Legal Aspects of Education Governance, 3 SH
- EDL 620 Superintendent and Educational Governance, 3 SH
- EDL 622 Management of Administrative Personnel, 3 SH
- EDL 627 School Business Management, 3 SH
- EDL 635 Educational Facilities, 3 SH
- EDL 655 Internship in Educational Leadership, 3 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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