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. All courses are delivered in weekend academy and distance learning formats.

**Admission Requirements**

Admission to candidacy in the WIU 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 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 in 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 36 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)
“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

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) endorsement 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 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.

Contact Information
For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact the Educational Leadership program, Horrabin Hall 115, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455. Inquiries may also be made at (309) 298-1070 or at wiu.edu/es.

Faculty
The faculty members 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, national, and international 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

Facility
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