The Educational Leadership department offers a comprehensive graduate academic program leading to the Master of Science in Education (MSED) degree and administrative licensure. The MSED degree program concentrates on the general background and skills needed for entry positions in educational leadership. The licensure option prepares students for appointments as public school principals. All courses are delivered in weekend academy and distance learning formats.

Admission Requirements
Admission to candidacy in the Educational Leadership department is contingent upon admission to the School of Graduate Studies and the Educational Leadership department’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
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution
- Personal references
- On-site written essay
- On-site structured interview
- Portfolio
- Two years of experience in a K-12 accredited educational institution

The Department Graduate Committee makes the final decision on a candidate’s admission.

Degree Requirements

Principal Licensure Track
Persons seeking Illinois Type 75 principal licensure (or licensure in Iowa or Missouri) through WIU must have a Master’s degree or must complete a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership. The licensure 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: 3 sh
- EDL 555 Principal Internship: 4 sh

MS Educational Leadership Track
The Master of Science in Education (MSED) degree in Educational Leadership requires a minimum of 33 semester hours (sh) (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 Graduate Committee. The student may earn licensure in K-12 administration (Type 75) after completing the degree program.

Courses Required of All MSED 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 or LEJA 503 Research Methodology in Criminal Justice (may be substituted for EIS 500 with permission of EDL department chair): 3 sh
- Electives to be selected in consultation with the student’s adviser: 6 sh
Faculty
The faculty members of the Department of Educational Leadership have a strong interest in helping highly successful teachers make the transition from the classroom to school district administrators. As transformational leaders, they can improve educational opportunities for all children in the school. Educational Leadership faculty hold doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership and other related fields. Their professional experiences include service as principals, curriculum directors, associate superintendents, and superintendents.

Educational Leadership faculty are actively involved in professional organizations, working with school districts on school improvement, and providing 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.

Distinctive Features
- Weekend academy format (Saturdays 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Sundays 8:00 AM - 1:30 PM)
- Students progress through the program with a cohort
- Multi-state (Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri) licensing options
- Inquiry-based learning
- Multiple fieldwork experiences
- Practice-focused curriculum
- Student-centered faculty

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. WIU’s licensure officer is authorized to approve licensure for students seeking administrative licensure in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of the licensure program are qualified to serve as assistant principals, principals, and deans of students in school districts in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

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, wis.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact the Department of Educational Leadership, Hornabrin Hall 81, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455. Inquiries may also be made by phone at (309) 298-1070 or at wiu.edu/edl.

“...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, May 2010
Regional Superintendent of Schools
Rock Island County Regional Office of Education

WIU.EDU/EDL