

MEd in Educational Leadership

WSU’s innovative master’s degree in educational leadership is designed using cohort groups. Students begin the program with a cohort who becomes a collaborative team for the next two years. The combination of graduate coursework and guided practical application provides students with valuable opportunities to learn through experience what it is to demonstrate excellence as a building level leader. Students work with their mentors (usually their building principals) in assessing their strengths and identifying areas for growth as an administrator, and identifying strengths and potential for improvement in their schools. Throughout the program, students learn to capitalize on these strengths and address professional challenges with confidence.

Students who complete this program and pass the School Leaders Licensure Assessment are eligible for Building Leadership endorsement from KSDE.

Admission

Applicants must have a minimum 3.000 grade point average in their last two years (60 credit hours) of college coursework from accredited institutions. In addition, applicants must have validated strengths on the multiple indicators listed below.

1. Official transcripts of all college-level work completed, and indication of a degree conferral;
2. Three Reference Report Forms from supervisors and/or professional peers. At least one must be from a supervisor attesting to the applicant’s potential as a building administrator;
3. Evidence of licensure for a role in the public/private schools and at least one year of accredited experience;
4. A resume or curriculum vita of educational and professional experience;
5. A brief statement of professional goals related to completion of the master’s degree and/or certification as a school administrator; and
6. A letter signed by a building principal indicating he or she is willing to serve as the student’s mentor and will allow the student to fulfill the practicum requirements of the program.

Note: Requirement six above normally precludes the admission of international students from this program because applicants are usually employed by a Kansas K–12 public or private school district before being admitted.

Program Requirements

Background Check

Upon admission and prior to their first semester, all applicants admitted to this program must clear a criminal background check. There are two reasons for this requirement. First, it is part of the university’s due diligence before placing students in field settings. Second, the check may alert applicants or students to issues that may subsequently affect their ability to work in their chosen field. In instances when a person’s criminal history raises reasonable concerns that should be cleared to engage in the field experiences and/or subsequently obtain licensure/endorsement, WSU may take a range of actions, including rescission of admission or dismissal from the program, depending on the nature of the concern.

For information regarding this requirement, visit: Advanced Programs (<https://wichita.edu/clesadvancedprograms>).

Curriculum

The Master of Education (MEd) in educational leadership consists of 33 graduate credit hours including:

Course	Title	Hours
CLES 801	Introduction to Educational Research	3
EL 813	Introduction to Educational Leadership and School Finance	3
EL 815	Building-Level Leadership Practicum I	3
EL 823	Changing the Culture in an Environment of Collaboration and Partnership	3
EL 825	Building-Level Leadership Practicum II	3
EL 831	Diversity and Social Justice	3
EL 833	Seminar: School Law and Personnel Management	3
EL 835	Building-Level Leadership Practicum III	3
EL 843	Seminar: Curriculum and Learning Theory	3
EL 845	Building-Level Leadership Practicum IV	3
EL 853	Building Level Leadership for Special Populations	3
Total Credit Hours		33

Students pursuing licensure as building leaders must complete this program in its entirety. A comprehensive written examination is required. In addition to program completion, passing the state of Kansas required Praxis II Test (test code 6011) is a requirement for state licensure.

Sequence of Courses

First Year		Credit Hours
Fall Semester		
EL 813	Introduction to Educational Leadership and School Finance	3
EL 815	Building-Level Leadership Practicum I	3
Credit Hours		6
Spring Semester		
EL 833	Seminar: School Law and Personnel Management (1st eight weeks)	3
EL 853	Building Level Leadership for Special Populations (2nd eight weeks)	3
EL 825	Building-Level Leadership Practicum II	3
Credit Hours		9
Second Year		
Summer Semester		
CLES 801	Introduction to Educational Research ¹	3
Credit Hours		3
Fall Semester		
EL 843	Seminar: Curriculum and Learning Theory (1st eight weeks)	3
EL 831	Diversity and Social Justice (2nd eight weeks)	3
EL 835	Building-Level Leadership Practicum III	3
Credit Hours		9
Spring Semester		
EL 823	Changing the Culture in an Environment of Collaboration and Partnership	3

EL 845	Building-Level Leadership Practicum IV	3
	Credit Hours	6
	Total Credit Hours	33

¹ CLES 801 can be taken any summer or online in any semester prior to fall 2.

Applied Learning

Students in the MEd program in educational leadership leading to building-level licensure are required to complete an applied learning or research experience to graduate from this program. The requirement can be met by completing two practicum experiences, EL 815 and EL 825.