Program Information

The EdS (Education Specialist) degree in Educational Administration is a 30 credit hour, post-master’s degree program. It can lead to certification in principalship, or supervisor of instruction. The EdS program is designed to prepare school leaders to engage staff, improve the instructional capacity of schools, and deal effectively with the educational challenges of the 21st century. The goal of the EdS program is to provide field experience, clinical practice, and conceptual and theoretical knowledge necessary for roles in instructional leadership. The Department of Educational Leadership, Evaluation, and Organizational Development maintains a strong collaboration with school districts in preparing exemplary P-12 school administrators.

The candidate’s admission packet must demonstrate his/her skills and understanding of the following: ability to improve student achievement, leadership, and advanced knowledge of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Candidates applying for admission are jointly screened by both the University of Louisville faculty and local school district personnel.

Admission Requirements

- Evidence of bachelor’s and master’s degrees
- Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work

Admission to this Program

- A 3.3 grade point average from the master’s degree program
- Signed copies of the following forms: Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement and Professional Code of Ethics for Kentucky School Personnel

Degree Program Admission Requirements

- Joint screening by ELEOD Department and local school district personnel
- A written rationale for pursuing the degree (limit of one page)
- A current resume
- Your philosophy of education (not to exceed two pages)
- Two written letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate’s skills and understanding of (a) ability to improve student achievement, (b) leadership, (c) advanced knowledge of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. One must be from the current site supervisor.

Certification requirements

The Education Professional Standards Board is responsible for issuing and renewing certificates for all Kentucky teachers and administrators. Candidates for principal certification must pass both the SLLA and the KYTP. These tests may be taken during the last semester of coursework for Level 1 Principal Certification. Current information about the Kentucky assessment program may be retrieved from epsb.ky.gov (http://www.epsb.ky.gov/mod/book/view.php?id=93).

Completion of three years of full-time teaching experience

- Three years of successful K-12 teaching experience in Kentucky or three years (one year = 140 contract days) of successful K-12 teaching outside the state of Kentucky.
some of those hours may not count toward certification. Students seeking Rank 1 simultaneously with this certification program must complete the appropriate form with the advisor. The advisor must approve electives/unnamed courses.

The Specialist in Education In Educational Administration (EdS) program prepares students to meet the requirements for certification and/or licensure. If you plan to pursue professional licensure or certification you should first determine your state’s criteria for examination and licensure to see how/if our program meets those requirements prior to enrollment. We recommend that you also contact your state’s licensing board directly to verify that the requirements have not changed recently and to answer any questions especially those regarding additional requirements beyond the degree.

More information about certification or licensure is available at the following website: louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information (https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information/) (you may search by school or by the name of the program then click on ‘View Details’ to display the information).

For programs with an online option, more information about certification or licensure is available here: louisville.edu/online/About-Us (http://louisville.edu/online/About-Us/) (please scroll down near the bottom of the page and click on the licensing disclosures tab).