

Leadership Studies in Education, M.A.

Degree Offered

- Master of Arts

Nature of the Program

The Master of Arts in Leadership Studies in Education is a fully online program designed to prepare building- and district-level educational leaders to address the challenges and opportunities of today's educational environments. The program emphasizes place-based leadership that is responsive to the specific needs of local schools and communities.

Coursework and learning outcomes are aligned with the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards for Building and District Leaders, as well as the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) advanced-level accreditation standards. The program is also designed to prepare students for relevant administrative licensure exams (Praxis).

Students may pursue one or more of the following administrative credential options as part of this master's program:

- Principal (PreK–Adult)
- General Supervisor of Instruction (PreK–Adult)
- Superintendent (PreK–Adult)

*Graduates are eligible for administrative credential(s) upon successful completion of the program and all additional state certification requirements.

Designed for working professionals, the program features fully online, 8-week asynchronous courses that offer maximum flexibility. Embedded practicum experiences provide hands-on, practical opportunities to develop essential skills for building- and district-level administration, with attention to both general and specialized areas of leadership.

*The program has been designed to align with West Virginia licensure requirements and prospective students should check compatibility with their state certification office.

Admissions for 2027-2028

- Applicants must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 (4-point scale) for regular graduate admission. Applicants with a GPA below 2.75 may be admitted as a provisional graduate student. Once admitted provisionally, students are required to achieve a 3.0 GPA in their first 9-hours of coursework to be reclassified as regular status and remain in the program.
- Applicants must hold a Professional Teaching Certificate.
- Teachers and administrators in West Virginia: Applicants must have at least two (2) completed years of teaching. As one requirement to obtain administrative licensure in West Virginia, students will need to have completed three (3) years of teaching by program completion. (Note that the degree is not dependent on successful licensure)
- Teachers and administrators in other states: Applicants should confirm the administrative license requirements with their state certification office. Other states may have differing requirements regarding years of teaching experience and the licensure process.
- Major Code: 5550

Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for all coursework applied to the program.		
A minimum grade of B is required in all coursework.		
EDUC 630	Strategic Leadership	3
EDUC 634	Organizational & Community Leadership	3
EDUC 632	Cultural Leadership	3
EDUC 631	Instructional Leadership	3
EDUC 633	Ethical & Policy Leadership	3
EDUC 639	Leadership Internship 1	3
Electives		12
EDUC 640	Leadership Internship 2 *	
EDUC 641	Place-based Leadership	
EDUC 635	Superintendent Seminar	

Additional education-focused elective courses as approved by advisor.

Total Hours **30**

* Students enrolled in the Combined School and District Leadership Certificate must take EDUC 640 as one of their elective courses.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
EDUC 630		3 EDUC 632		3 EDUC 633	3
EDUC 634		3 EDUC 631		3 Elective	3
		6			6

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
EDUC 639		3 EDUC 640 (or Elective)	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
		6	6

Total credit hours: 30

Certificates

- Combined School and District Leadership (p. 2)
- General Supervision of Instruction (p. 3)
- The Principalship (p. 3)

Combined School and District Leadership

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG79

To be eligible to receive a graduate certificate, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.00 in all courses applied to the certificate (core/non-electives courses).

Code	Title	Hours
EDUC 630	Strategic Leadership	3
EDUC 631	Instructional Leadership	3
EDUC 632	Cultural Leadership	3
EDUC 633	Ethical & Policy Leadership	3
EDUC 634	Organizational & Community Leadership	3
EDUC 639	Leadership Internship 1	3
EDUC 640	Leadership Internship 2	3

Total Hours **21**

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
EDUC 630		3 EDUC 632		3 EDUC 633	3
EDUC 634		3 EDUC 631		3 EDUC 639	3
		6			6

Second Year

Fall	Hours
EDUC 640	3
3	

Total credit hours: 21

General Supervision of Instruction

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG77

To be eligible to receive a graduate certificate, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.00 in all courses applied to the certificate (core/non-electives courses).

Code	Title	Hours
EDUC 630	Strategic Leadership	3
EDUC 634	Organizational & Community Leadership	3
EDUC 632	Cultural Leadership	3
EDUC 631	Instructional Leadership	3
EDUC 633	Ethical & Policy Leadership	3
EDUC 639	Leadership Internship 1	3
Total Hours		18

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
EDUC 630		3 EDUC 632		3 EDUC 633	3
EDUC 634		3 EDUC 631		3 EDUC 639	3
		6			6

Total credit hours: 18

The Principalship

CERTIFICATE CODE - CG78

To be eligible to receive a graduate certificate, a student must have a GPA of at least 2.80 in all courses applied to the certificate (core/non-electives courses).

Code	Title	Hours
EDUC 630	Strategic Leadership	3
EDUC 631	Instructional Leadership	3
EDUC 632	Cultural Leadership	3
EDUC 633	Ethical & Policy Leadership	3
EDUC 634	Organizational & Community Leadership	3
EDUC 639	Leadership Internship 1	3
Total Hours		18

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer	Hours
EDUC 630		3 EDUC 632		3 EDUC 633	3
EDUC 634		3 EDUC 631		3 EDUC 639	3
		6			6

Total credit hours: 18

Degree Progress

The School of Education and Counseling requires the following milestones for all students. According to the graduate catalog, students will receive a yearly evaluation. Students who are either not making adequate degree progress or who are failing to uphold professional standards may receive notice of probation, suspension or dismissal. Students may be notified of academic consequences outside of routine evaluation processes if an issue must be addressed immediately.

Each year, no later than the first day of classes of the Fall semester, the department will distribute an updated version of the CAHS Graduate Student Handbook (<https://rise.articulate.com/share/EbN3cQXBPT-uMvv5jc3A5QwaUundXN95/#/>), which includes links to program-specific handbooks.

BENCHMARKS

- Achieve a minimum GPA of 2.75 in coursework to graduate

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

- Students may be dismissed from their program if their GPA falls below a 2.5.
- Students below a 2.75 are considered on probation.

Major Learning Outcomes

LEADERSHIP STUDIES IN EDUCATION

By the completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Make strategic leadership decisions, including the development of mission and vision driven by values and goals.
2. Make instructional leadership decisions, including professional development plans, curriculum and instruction programs, and assessment and accountability systems.
3. Evaluate climate and cultural leadership practices, including the establishment of a community of care for teachers and students and strategies toward equity and cultural responsiveness.
4. Employ ethical decision-making regarding policies and utilize appropriate systems to protect the rights of students and faculty.
5. Utilize organizational leadership practices to manage facilities, human and fiscal resources, and ensure a safe environment.
6. Practice community-engaged, collaborative leadership strategies.
7. Evaluate place-based leadership theories and practices.