EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST: EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Program Description
The educational specialist degree with emphasis in PK-12 school administration (accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) prepares teachers for specialization in school leadership and administration. The program also provides an opportunity for practicing administrators to enhance their professional skills and to connect with other practitioners from the metropolitan area and region. To this end, the program’s emphasis is the development of broad understanding and experiences across the whole professional field, the acquisition of in-depth knowledge in at least one specialized field in educational administration, and integrative experiences demonstrating the application of theory to practice.

Although not essential to completion of the educational specialist degree, the master of arts may be earned by the candidate at approximately the halfway point.

EdS Beginning Principal
The Ed.S. degree with emphasis in educational administration prepares teachers for specialization in school leadership and administration. The program also provides an opportunity for practicing administrators to enhance their professional skills and to connect with other practitioners from the metropolitan area and region. Students in the program gain a broad understanding across the professional field, the acquisition of in-depth knowledge in at least one specialized field in educational administration, and integrative experiences demonstrating the application of theory to practice.

EdS Executive Superintendency (Online)
The online Ed.S. degree with emphasis in executive superintendency prepares experienced principals or building administrators for specialization in central office positions, including superintendent or associate superintendent roles. The program provides an opportunity for practicing administrators to enhance their professional skills and gain a deeper understanding across the professional field including facilities planning, school finance, governmental and legal aspects of special education, and other integrate experiences that bring together the application of theory to practice. Upon completion of the program of study and passing the School Superintendent’s Assessment, graduates will be recommended for District Administration/Superintendent certification.

This program is designed to prepare current building administrators and curriculum leaders for professional educator roles in a district-level setting. The degree leads to superintendent certification eligibility in Missouri and Kansas.

Requirements for Admission
Candidates must:
• Provide a copy of a valid teaching certificate
• Provide a copy of a current permanent or professional school administrator/principal license/certificate to teach.
• Have at least two years of full-time certified teaching, supervisory, or administrative experience, or any combination thereof, in elementary, middle or secondary schools under a fully licensed teaching certificate (temporary or provisional certification does not meet this requirement).
• Provide a transcript demonstrating completion of a course in psychology or education of the exceptional child.
• Possess a master’s degree with a GPA of at least 3.25

Student Learning Outcomes
Students graduating from this program will:
• See Student Learning Outcomes and Aligned Instructional and Assessment Activities below

Student Learning Outcomes for Ed.S. PK-12 Administration
The Aspiring School Administrator will:
• use multiple data to describe school climate and culture including demographic information regarding students, faculty, and community;
• conduct a comprehensive analysis of the school’s improvement plan and its alignment with student learning outcomes;
• communicate effectively with all stakeholders: students, staff, parents, community and central office administration;
• engage in activities and best practices related to both formative and summative assessments to promote instructional improvement;
• identify legal implications related to school operations involving all stakeholders: students, staff, parents, community members, and central office administration;
• engage in a reflective exercise related to building-level staff and professional development experiences that promote student learning
Curriculum
A minimum of 33 credit hours is required in the major area. Individual programs will be designed with the assistance of the faculty advisor to develop competencies in the theoretical, technical and functional aspects of educational administration.

The basic prerequisite course for the PK-12 program is:

- EDUC-UL 5501

Completion of the following is required in all programs:

- EDUC-UL 5574

Also required are 3 credit hours of research coursework to include EDUC-R&P 5505.

In addition to 27 hours of course work in education administration, the internship, and research, candidates are required to complete 6 credit hours of course work in the supporting areas of curriculum theory or design and historical or cultural foundations.

Note: Students should identify a faculty advisor in Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations at the time of admission to the School of Education. Final program planning is a joint responsibility of the candidate and, the faculty advisor.

Requirements for Graduation
In addition to the general School of Education graduate degree requirements, the Ed.S. degree in educational administration also requires:

1. Building Level 1 Administrator Content Assessment (058) - passing score: 220
2. Performance Assessment for Aspiring Building Administrators (PAABA) - passing score: 10
3. A minimum of 320 supervisor - approved Fieldwork Hours
4. Ed.S. Degree and program completion in Education Administration – 33 Graduate Hours