

# EDUCATION SPECIALIST IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Available on the Jackson, Germantown and Hendersonville Campuses

The purpose of the Education Specialist in Educational Leadership is to prepare leaders who will make a difference as moral agents and sensitive social advocates for the children and the communities they serve; who will focus on the central issues of learning and teaching and school improvement; who will make strong connections as they reflect Christian values with others as individuals and as members of the educational community.

### Objectives of the Program

Students in the Ed.S. in Educational Leadership Program will:

1. Demonstrate within their disciplines advanced knowledge and skills.
2. Display competency in the critical evaluation of issues, trends and methodologies.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply research that extends the body of knowledge in the field.
4. Enhance their ethical decision-making ability through an academic environment integrated with the Christian faith.
5. Build intellectual and moral knowledge to cope with a pluralistic world in order to better serve communities and their schools.

The objectives are met within the context of a set of standards developed by the Educational Leadership Constituent Council of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

### Program Description

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership is offered along two concentrations: (1) Instructional Leadership (IL), a licensure track designed to prepare school principals and supervisors of instruction; and (2) Curriculum and Supervision (C&S), a non-licensure track designed for school leaders who desire knowledge of concepts and strategies for school and classroom leadership. The degree is based on Union's conceptual framework of A Teacher-Student Dynamic of Sensitivity, Reflection and Faith. Union University desires to prepare school leaders who are grounded in and committed to excellence in teaching and learning with values based on our Judeo-Christian heritage.

**The Cohort Approach** The program accepts students in groups to pursue each course together in a cohort. Lifelong friendships are developed through this format, and learning takes place in a spirit of unity, rigor, and cooperation.

**Program Delivery and Calendar** Students will be accepted into cohorts who will complete the program utilizing an innovative delivery system designed to meet

the needs of educators. Ed.S. students will begin the program with a course offered on Saturdays in February and March, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. over 5 1/2 Saturdays. The Summer term involves an intensive two months in which students complete 6-7 semester hours utilizing Saturdays in June and July, and two days a week in June and July. Time is provided during the summer for library research, group projects, independent reading, and Practicum hours. In the fall, instruction occurs on Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on 5 1/2 Saturdays for a course in September and October, followed by other courses offered on Saturdays in November-December, January-February, March-April, and May-June-July. Saturdays are utilized for courses offered January through May. The guiding principle is that students will complete one course before moving to another.

Instructional Leadership students begin the Practicum in their first semester. The Practicum runs through June of the second summer of the program. Students and faculty maintain online contact during the intervening weeks and months in support of course assignments. Saturdays are also utilized for courses offered January through June. In June students complete their Practicum and, with C&S students, present their Leadership Growth Papers.

Also in June, IL students take the Praxis II School Leader's Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for licensure and for graduation in August. The program enables the candidates to advance through Tennessee's four-tiered licensure system.

Each cohort is presented its unique calendar for the complete program. Current Ed.S. calendars are available at <http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/eds/>

### Curriculum: Ed.S. in Educational Leadership: Instructional Leadership

**Prerequisites:** Human Growth and Development, Instructional Technology, Educational Assessment and 3 years of teaching experience.

**Transfer Credit by Petition:** Maximum of 9 Semester Hours may be applied.

**Licensure:** This program leads to a recommendation for licensure as a principal or supervisor of instruction in the State of Tennessee. It is designed to meet NCATE, ISLLC and State of Tennessee licensure standards in school leadership.

- EDU 610—History and Philosophy of Education
- EDU 613—Brain-Based Learning
- EDR 700—Research Issues in Educational Leadership
- EDU 702—Engaged Learning
- EDU 703—Supervision
- EDU 706—Organizational Decision Making
- EDU 707—Legal Issues in School Governance
- EDU 708—Curriculum and School Improvement
- EDU 714—Leadership Issues I—Theories and Strategies



## Academic Requirements for Progression, Probation, and Suspension

Students in the Education Specialist program must maintain an overall Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 to remain in Good Academic Standing.

After completion of nine graduation hours at Union University, an Ed.S. student whose cumulative GPA from courses taken at Union for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. A student placed

on academic probation has one semester to increase his/her cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher.

If the student fails to attain the required minimum 3.0 GPA during the probationary semester, the student will be suspended from the Ed.S. program. While suspended from the program, the student may repeat courses in which a grade of B, C, or F has been earned in an effort to improve the GPA. The student may apply for readmission to the program after the cumulative GPA has been raised to 3.0 or higher. A student suspended from a graduate program is not eligible for Veterans Administration Benefits.

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## Graduation Requirements

All students completing the Education Specialist in Educational Leadership must meet the following criteria for graduation.

1. Successful completion of the required 39 semester hours of coursework with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
2. Successful presentation of the Leadership Growth Paper.

In addition to the above criteria, students completing the Instructional Leadership licensure track must:

3. Successfully complete the required Practicum or Internship.
4. The candidate for the Ed.S. degree (Instructional Leadership track) MUST PASS the Praxis II SLLA test in order to complete the Ed.S./Instructional

Leadership program. The test will be taken in mid-June of the second year of the program; results should be received mid-July so that the candidate will know if he/she will complete the Instructional Leadership license. If the test is not passed, the candidate can receive the Ed.S. in Curriculum and Supervision (non-licensure).

Students who have completed the Union Education Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) and desire to return to complete the Ed.D., after having met doctoral admission standards must complete a set of two "bridge" doctoral seminar courses before enrolling in the final 21 hours of doctoral research courses. The courses are EDR 707, Leadership Research Seminar, which includes the Qualifying Paper, and EDU 711, Seminar in Politics, Policy, and Instruction. See the Ed.D. program section for admission criteria and course descriptions.

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## Financial Information

