

Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, EdS

Programs designed to lead to professional licensure are subject to federal regulations regarding informational disclosures. Please see Professional Licensure Disclosures by Program for further information.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- apply the knowledge, skills, and inquiry strategies to solve significant problems related to educational policies and practices;
- demonstrate through their clinical experiences their participation in, and ability to navigate, the day-to-day responsibilities of a school administrator;
- utilize data effectively to enhance learning opportunities for all students;
- recognize and address inequities imposed on students and educators, and promote necessary change;
- understand and apply evidence of effective organizational and systemic change for equity, inclusion, and justice;
- identify and meet contemporary challenges facing schools and school leaders;
- impact and enact policy defined by school board or legislative action;
- manage and distribute resources to enact the optimum impact upon programs at the building and district level;
- embrace differences of persons and perspectives, and understand the challenges faced at all levels of a school system PK-12; and
- exhibit the ability to successfully develop a district overview or administrative problem in practice.

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Educational Leadership

The Specialist in Education program in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires 60 s.h. of graduate credit and is offered for educators who already have their master's degree and Iowa administrator license. Students must earn a UI cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The program prepares candidates to be superintendents in Iowa or to hold other district-level leadership positions in PK-12 school districts. It also prepares them for appointments as area education agency chief administrators and for jobs in state or federal departments of education.

Students can transfer up to 30 s.h. from a previously earned master's degree. Students must complete a minimum of 30 s.h. of coursework at UI after program admission, generally comprised of 20 s.h. of coursework and 10 s.h. of clinical work. At the conclusion of the program, students are required to present their first-year entry plan. Many educational leadership courses are offered synchronously via distance education; see MyUI for information about courses offered during current semesters. For detailed information, refer to EdS programs on the Educational Leadership website.

Students seeking superintendent endorsement must have an Iowa administrator license. They obtain the superintendent endorsement (State of Iowa Endorsement 171) upon completing the required EdS coursework and at least three years of administrative experience.

The EdS in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires the following coursework.

Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
EPLS:6265	Standards-Based Education and Accountability	3
EPLS:6270	Policy and Politics	3
EPLS:6315	Orientation to the Superintendency	2
EPLS:6317	Operational Leadership and Management	2
EPLS:6319	Human Resources Leadership	2
EPLS:6321	Social Advocacy Summit	1
EPLS:6323	School Finance	2

EPLS:6325	Organizational and Educational Leadership	2
EPLS:6329	Legislative Summit	1

Electives

Students choose electives numbered 3000 or above appropriate for their individual goals. Elective courses may be selected from counselor education (prefix CSED), teaching and learning (prefix EDTL), educational policy and leadership studies (prefix EPLS), and psychological and quantitative foundations (prefix PSQF), or by other University of Iowa departments and programs. Electives must be approved by the student's advisor and bring the total for the degree to 60 s.h.

Clinical Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
EPLS:6404	Central Administration Clinical	2
EPLS:6405	Superintendent Entry Plan and Portfolio Development	1
EPLS:6415	Orientation to the Superintendency: Clinical	2
EPLS:6417	Operational Leadership Clinical	1
EPLS:6419	Human Resources Leadership Clinical (Iowa Evaluator Approval Training opportunity is available through AEA PD Online; contact the closest AEA for information.)	2
EPLS:6423	School Finance Clinical	1
EPLS:6425	Organizational and Educational Leadership Clinical	1

Students are required to spend 40 clock hours of effort for each semester hour of clinical courses. Documentation of these hours must be maintained and submitted at the end of the course. Documentation should include the date, time spent, description of the activity, and reflections. Each activity must be identified with the corresponding National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standard. A syllabus will be provided to guide the clinical activity.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College and of the educational leadership program. Complete applications are reviewed as they are received.

Higher Education and Student Affairs

The Specialist in Education program in educational policy and leadership studies with a higher education and student affairs subprogram requires 60 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must earn a UI cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00 in major coursework.

The program provides advanced graduate study in administration, policy studies, and specializations developed in consultation with an advisor. The EdS also may be awarded upon completion of a combined program of graduate work in higher education and another academic field, or upon

completion of a higher education sequence following a master's degree program in a different field.

The EdS in educational policy and leadership studies with a higher education and student affairs subprogram must include the following.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	18
Electives	10
Specialization Area Courses	28
Research	4

Depending on the student's career goals, the program may include an appropriate structured and supervised internship, determined in consultation with the advisor.

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
EPLS:6216	Finance in Higher Education	3
EPLS:6220	History of Higher Education	3
EPLS:6224	Organizational Theory and Administrative Behavior	3
EPLS:6273	College Students	3
EPLS:6275	Higher Education and Society	3
EPLS:6311	Seminar: Research Topic in Education	3

Electives

Students complete at least 10 s.h. in elective courses numbered 3000 or above that are appropriate for their individual goals. Elective courses may be selected from counselor education (prefix CSED), teaching and learning (prefix EDTL), educational policy and leadership studies (prefix EPLS), and psychological and quantitative foundations (prefix PSQF), or by other University of Iowa departments and programs. Electives must be approved by the student's advisor.

Specialization Area Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 28 s.h. from these:		
EPLS:5251	College Environments	3
EPLS:5253	Assessment in Higher Education and Student Affairs	3
EPLS:6217	Theory for Scholar Practitioners	2-3
EPLS:6218	The Law and Higher Education	3
EPLS:6225	Higher Education Policy	3
EPLS:6266	Program Evaluation	3
EPLS:6321	Social Advocacy Summit	1
EPLS:6332	College Student Development	3
EPLS:6336	Impact of College on Students	3
EPLS:7385	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3

EPLS:7432	Strategies for Inclusive Leadership	3
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Additional courses approved by advisor

Research

Students complete at total of 4 s.h. in EPLS:7395 Educational Specialist Research.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Educational Leadership Subprogram

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
60 s.h. of graduate level coursework must be completed; maximum of 30 s.h. of graduate transfer credits can be applied upon approval to fulfill the degree requirements. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. ^{a, b, c}		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. ^d		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
EPLS:6270	Policy and Politics	3
EPLS:6317	Operational Leadership and Management	2
EPLS:6417	Operational Leadership Clinical ^e	1
Hours		6
Spring		
EPLS:6315	Orientation to the Superintendency	2
EPLS:6415	Orientation to the Superintendency: Clinical ^e	2
Hours		4
Summer		
EPLS:6319	Human Resources Leadership	2
EPLS:6321	Social Advocacy Summit	1
EPLS:6419	Human Resources Leadership Clinical ^e	2
Hours		5
Second Year		
Fall		
EPLS:6323	School Finance	2
EPLS:6405	Superintendent Entry Plan and Portfolio Development ^e	1
EPLS:6423	School Finance Clinical	1
Hours		4

Spring

EPLS:6329	Legislative Summit	1
Elective course ^f		2 - 3

Hours 3-4

Summer

EPLS:6325	Organizational and Educational Leadership	2
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EPLS:6425	Organizational and Educational Leadership Clinical ^e	1
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Hours 3

Third Year

Fall

EPLS:6265	Standards-Based Education and Accountability	3
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Hours 3

Spring

EPLS:6404	Central Administration Clinical ^e	2
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Confirm completion of degree requirements with program.

Hours 2

Total Hours 30-31

- a Students seeking superintendent endorsement must have an Iowa administrator license. They obtain the superintendent endorsement (State of Iowa endorsement 171) upon completing the required EdS coursework and at least three years of principal experience.
- b Complete most course requirements prior to taking clinical requirements; work with academic advisor to select electives.
- c Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
- d Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.
- e Students are required to spend 40 clock hours of effort for each semester hour of clinical courses; see department website for specifics.
- f Electives must be approved by the student's advisor and bring the total for the degree to 60 s.h.