Educational Policy and Leadership Studies, Ed.S.

Educational Leadership

The Specialist in Education program in educational policy and leadership studies with an educational leadership subprogram requires 36 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 cumulative g.p.a. 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 K-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 complete 26 s.h. of coursework, 10 s.h. of clinical work, and present an entry plan. Many educational leadership courses are offered by distance education; see MyUI for information about courses offered during current semesters. At the conclusion of the program, students are required to present their first-year entry plan. For detailed information, refer to Ed.S. 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 Ed.S. coursework and at least three years of principal experience.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College and of the educational leadership program. Required application materials include transcripts, official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores (however, the GRE requirement has been suspended for the 2021-22 admissions cycle), three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of career goals. Admission is based on grade-point average and GRE scores, promise for scholarly and professional growth, and recommendations. Application deadline for fall semester is July 1; for spring semester, December 1; and for summer session, April 30. Complete applications are reviewed as they are received.

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official test scores to verify English proficiency. Applicants can verify English proficiency by submitting official test scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For specific score requirements, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.