Master of Education or Specialist in Education

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Principal Certification K-12

The School of Education offers the Master of Education in Educational Leadership degree program which leads to elementary and secondary principal licensure in school administration. If the candidate has an earned master’s degree, then the Specialist in Educational Leadership is available.

**Vision**

The vision of William Carey University’s leadership program is to equip educational leadership candidates to become change agents for positively impacting students’ lives, socially, emotionally and academically.

**Goals and Objectives**

The vision and values are instilled through the following guiding principles:

1) Effective leaders develop and articulate reasonable personal and school goals;

2) Effective leaders are instructional leaders and are knowledgeable about analyzing data, identifying, securing, and organizing appropriate resources for school reform (human, technological, etc.);

3) Effective leaders create nurturing and caring educational environments;

4) Effective leaders are knowledgeable about safe practices regarding ethical, legal, social, and political issues;

5) Effective leaders skillfully communicate with internal and external publics;

6) Effective leaders emphasize the importance of literacy; and

7) Effective leaders skillfully practice leadership theories in real world settings.

**Admissions Requirements**

A. General

1. Each applicant must hold a baccalaureate degree or graduate degree from an accredited college or university.

2. Each applicant must file with the Graduate Office of Admissions the following:
   - Documentation certifying at least of 3 years teaching experience
   - A resume’, transcripts, and licensure
- Graduate Record Exam score (competitive)
- A letter of support from school superintendent and a letter of support from the principal

3. Additionally, applicant must have a G.P.A. of 3.0 for the last 64 hours in the undergraduate program or 3.5 in the graduate program

4. After acceptance by the Graduate Office of Admissions, each applicant must complete a writing sample and interview administered by the Department of Educational Leadership.

B. Other

1. Students move through the program in cohorts.

2. A minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate work must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 3.25 maintained. Only two grades lower than a B are allowed. Upon receiving a second grade lower than a B, a student is advised to repeat on one of the first two grades lower than a B before continuing in the program. A student making a third grade lower than a B will be dismissed from the program. All appeals to policy relative to academic standing are made through the appropriate dean and, as necessary, to the Graduate Academic Appeals subcommittee of the Graduate committee.

3. A student must complete all required work within a period of six years after enrolling in graduate courses.

4. A thesis is not required in the Master or Specialist of Educational Leadership degrees.

5. A written comprehensive examination will be required of each candidate prior to graduation. The contents of this examination will be determined by the graduate faculty. A student must have met all other degree requirements and be enrolled in the final six hours in order to take the comprehensive examination.

6. A signed program of study should be on file prior to completing 12 hours.

7. Candidates must successfully meet state requirements for Praxis SLLA (School Leadership Licensure Assessment) and any other licensure requirements mandated by the State of Mississippi as a graduation requirement.

8. Participation in the graduation ceremony is required. Degrees are not conferred in absentia, except by the office of Academic Affairs’ special permission for which students must submit a written request. Students who are candidates for May degrees are required to file applications for their degrees in the registrar’s office by October 15. Candidates for August graduation must file by March 31. Late applications will be accepted up to 30 days after the respective deadlines. There will be a $50 late fee in addition to the graduation fee.

Curriculum for Master of Education in Educational Leadership Degree

The academic requirements for a Master of Educational Leadership degree consist of 36 semester hours from four categories (Landslapes).

LANDSCAPE ONE: Organizational Horizons
EDL 601 Organizational Leadership 3 hours
EDL 602 Roles of the Principal 3 hours

LANDSCAPE TWO: Instructional Horizons
EDL 603 Data-driven Instruction 3 hours
EDL 604 Research-Based Instruction 3 hours
EDL 607 Instructional Leadership 3 hours
EDL 608 Best Practices 3 hours
EDL 607 Instructional Leadership 3 hours
EDL 617 Human and Student Diversity 3 hours
LANDSCAPE THREE: Humanistic Horizons
EDL 605 Human Resources Management 3 hours
EDL 606 Judicial and Ethics Considerations 3 hours
EDL 688 School/Community Climates 3 hours

LANDSCAPE FOUR: Practicing Horizons
EDL 635 Practicum and Internship 6 hours

Course Descriptions
Educational Leadership (EDL)

601 Organizational Leadership. Three hours. The study of the fundamental principles and culture of the educational organization and administration as well as concepts for development and growth.

602 Roles of the Principal. Three hours. This course identifies specific roles of the principal and equips the school leader in becoming a facilitator in sustaining a school culture that promotes the success of students and staff by ensuring management of the organization and resources for a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment.

603 Data-driven Instruction. Three hours. This is a study of research-based approaches to leading and assessing instructional processes. Required of all graduate students in the Master of Educational Leadership degree program.

604 Research-Based Instruction. Three hours. This course examines the utilization of educational data to make informed decisions for leading schools.

608 Best Practices. Three hours. This course examines the new standards for various subject areas for the “state-of-the-art teaching” as set by national educational and professional organizations as well as national exemplary programs.

607 Instructional Leadership. Three hours. This course trains the candidate to organize human, financial, physical, and community resources for leading school improvement.

605 Human Resources Management. Three hours. This course examines the processes of personnel administration in educational organizations, for both certified and non-certified personnel. It provides a comprehensive overview of personnel administration as it relates to recruitment, selection, orientation, professional development, motivation, work incentives, grievance management, reduction in force, employee discipline, employee evaluation, salary, fringe benefits, sexual harassment, discrimination, and worker’s compensation.

606 Judicial and Ethics Considerations Three hours. This course includes the exploration of local, state, and federal laws, court decisions, and legal opinions affecting public education.

635 Practicum and Internship. Six hours. Participation in reflective field experiences and observations (400 internship hours and 500 practicum hours).