

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST DEGREE

The Educational Specialist Degree program is based on the “value-added” concept of preparation of school leaders for district level leadership positions such as superintendent and assistant superintendent.

Students are eligible to apply for unconditional admission to the Educational Specialist degree program if they meet the requirements listed:

1. Hold a Master’s degree or equivalent in Educational Leadership.
2. Hold a Standard Teaching License.
3. Hold an Administrative License.
4. Pass a written assessment or portfolio update to be administered and/or reviewed by Educational Leadership faculty.

Applicants who fail to meet the grade point requirement specified for unconditional admission may be admitted conditionally to enroll for a maximum of twelve semester hours. If a student was admitted conditionally based on grade point average, the condition will be met if upon completion of twelve semester hours a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or better is achieved.

The director of the CLL program will assign a faculty advisor to each student admitted to the degree program. The advisor will assist the student in the program of study that leads to the fulfillment of degree requirements. Subsequently, the academic advisor, the Department Graduate Committee, and the Graduate College monitor the student’s progress as they progress through the program. It remains, however, the student’s responsibility to understand and to satisfy all degree requirements.

Students who have been granted conditional admission are eligible for admission to candidacy for the degree upon the completion of twelve hours with a 3.00 grade point average and completion of all deficiencies. Students who have been granted unconditional admission are eligible for admission to candidacy upon completion of twelve hours with a 3.00 grade point average. Students who do not submit an “Application for Admission to Candidacy” prior to the end of the semester in which the student becomes eligible will not be allowed to register for subsequent graduate classes.

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Unconditional Admission

Conditional Admission

Academic Advisors

Admission to Candidacy

Degree Requirements

1. A minimum of 30 semester hours (all at the 7000 level), include the completion of the following courses:
 - EDLD 7003 Seminar in Systems Issues
 - EDLD 7013 The Superintendency and Central Office
 - EDLD 7022 Building a Leadership Community
 - EDLD 7023 School Board Relations
 - EDLD 7033 School Personnel and Business Management
 - EDLD 7101 Administrative Internship in Educational Facilities
 - EDLD 7112 Advanced Legal Issues
 - EDLD 7113 Seminar in Current Issues
 - EDLD 7122 Educational Facilities
 - EDLD 7132 School Finance for District Level Administration
 - EDLD 7143 School Accountability Systems
 - EDLD 7201 Administrative Internship in District Level Finance
 - EDLD 7202 Administrative Internship in School Accountability Systems
2. A portfolio must be successfully completed and approved by a portfolio review committee.

Portfolio

A candidate for an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership must complete a portfolio as part of the program of study for the degree of Educational Specialist. This portfolio is an edited, integrated collection of an Educational Leadership candidate's evidence that competencies reflective of the Arkansas Standards and the Interstate School Leaders Standards have been acquired. It is NOT merely a file of course projects, nor is it a scrapbook of professional memorabilia. It is a collection of a student's best work developed during his program of study. It should showcase the student's best work as an educational leadership candidate and demonstrate the student's expertise relative to the principles and standards for a district administrator. The portfolio is a collection of documents providing tangible evidence of the wide range of knowledge, dispositions, and skills possessed as a professional. The candidate's portfolio is a work in progress and should be updated regularly throughout one's program of study. It should provide evidence of the value-added concept from a Master Degree Portfolio.

Special Conditions of Graduate Credit Graduate Credit Taken Prior to Admission to Arkansas Tech University

A maximum of **nine** semester hours of graduate credit with a grade point average of "B" or better may be transferred from an accredited graduate school if deemed appropriate to the graduate program by the head of the student's major department and the Dean of Graduate College. Students must send a written request to the head of their major department to petition an acceptance of the transfer credit prior to requesting admission to candidacy to the graduate program. Graduate credit earned six years prior to the completion date of all degree requirements may not be applied toward the degree without the approval of the appropriate program director and the Dean of Graduate College. Credits earned by correspondence courses or for remedial purposes will not apply toward the graduate degree. No undergraduate course may be repeated for graduate credit.

Graduate Credit Taken After Admission to Arkansas Tech University

If after admission to graduate study, a student wishes to take a course at another institution to count toward degree requirements at Arkansas Tech University, the student must (in advance of enrollment) obtain written approval from the program director and the Dean of Graduate College.