

District-Level Leader Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership 2024-2025

Program Goals:

To graduate educational leaders with the knowledge, skills, ethics, and motivation to:

- transform educational organizations;
- facilitate student success; and,
- respond affirmatively to the increasing expectations of their various communities in a technological society and a global environment.

Student Learning Outcomes (based on the new National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards for District-Level Leaders)

1. Mission, Vision, & Improvement

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to collaboratively lead, design, and implement a district mission, vision, and process for continuous improvement that reflects a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, values, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community.

2. Ethics & Professional Norms

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to understand and demonstrate the capacity to advocate for ethical decisions and cultivate professional norms and culture.

3. Equity & Cultural Leadership

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to develop and maintain a supportive, equitable, culturally responsive, and inclusive district culture.

4. Instructional Leadership

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to evaluate, design, cultivate, and implement coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, data systems, supports, assessment, and instructional leadership.

5. Community & External Leadership

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to understand and engage families, communities, and other constituents in the work of schools and the district and to advocate for district, student, and community needs.

6. Operations & Management

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to develop, monitor, evaluate, and manage data-informed and equitable district systems for operations, resources, technology, and human capital management.

7. Policy, Governance, & Advocacy

Candidates who successfully complete a district-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the present and future success and well-being of students and district personnel by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to cultivate relationships, lead collaborative decision making and governance, and represent and advocate for district needs in broader policy conversations.

8. Internship

Candidates successfully completing an internship under the supervision of knowledgeable, expert practitioners that engages candidates in multiple and diverse district settings and provides candidates with coherent, authentic, and sustained opportunities to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills identified in NELP Standards 1-7 in ways that approximate the full range of responsibilities required of district-level leaders and enable them to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult in their district.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

Programmatic Adjustment. During the summer of 2022, admission to the EDLE Ed.S. program was adjusted from rolling to a cohort model. EDLE faculty worked with three students who enrolled prior to the move to a cohort to adjust programs of study to fluidly transition them into the cohort. Independent studies were offered when necessary to eliminate negative consequences of the cohort on previously admitted students. In December, 2023 four students completed requirements for the Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, which includes the three students who transitioned from the pre-cohort group.

Timeline. Assessment of learning outcomes occurs via benchmark assignments embedded throughout the Educational Leadership curriculum which is aligned with the 2018 NELP standards and approved by CAEP. The timeline for assessment and analysis is not particular to individual learning outcomes, but instead is ongoing through the coursework and a culminating activity (the internship). Each of the 22 NELP components in standards 1-7 connect to significant activities in at least one course and students frequently use those activities during the internship to document their proficiency in standards.

Data from Course Assignments. Data from course assignments and internship activities are archived in Blackboard for ease of program performance evaluation, which is conducted at the end of each semester and compiled into an annual report in the spring of each academic year. At the beginning of their internship semester, EDLE students complete a self-assessment of their proficiency in the NELP standards and components, which is used to individualize their internship experiences to ensure they have opportunities to develop the skills required by NELP standards 1-7. The desired level of student achievement is all candidates will either meet or exceed the standard as measured by the following:

1. Faculty assessments of course assignments
2. Mentor assessment of internship performance
3. Assessment scores from the School Leader Licensure Assessment (SLLA)

Student Progress

During the 2024, 5 Ed.S. students successfully completed the internship for district level licensure and graduated. Graduates had a 100% pass rate on the state licensure exam. 7 students enrolled in the Fall 2024 cohort.

Areas of Improvement

Increasing enrollment in the District Licensure Certificate is an ongoing priority for the EDLE program and a faculty member now has dedicated time and resources to travel to 3 key summer education conferences in 2025 to meet with stakeholders, alumni, and prospective students.