



The West Texas A&M University Educational Leadership Program prepares *confident, skilled, and reflective* leaders of education to pursue excellence and make powerful and lasting impacts in their communities. This program's degree and certification options include the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree, Texas principal certification, and Texas superintendent certification.

The Educational Leadership program's largest enrollment consists of aspiring campus leaders requiring the principal certificate as a necessary credential for the leadership position sought. The program offers two options for candidates to obtain the Texas principal certificate.

Option 1. Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Leadership and Texas Principal Certification

The most popular option selected by a majority of the program's applicants is the combination M.Ed. + Principal certification option. This 30-semester credit hour program comprised of eight courses and a year-long practicum is designed for applicants pursuing mid-management leadership positions in public and private schools. The program prepares applicants for positions including, but not limited to campus principals, assistant principals, curriculum directors, athletic directors, special education directors, special programs directors, and human resource managers. During the last semester or upon completion of the required coursework and practicum, the culminating examinations include the master's comprehensive exam for the conferral of the master's degree and the principal TExES for state licensure as a Texas principal. Applicants must have an earned bachelor's degree to be considered for admission to the program and two years of creditable teaching experience to be eligible for the Texas principal certificate.

Option 2. Texas Principal Certification

This 24-semester credit hour program, comprised of six courses and a year-long practicum, is designed for applicants who hold an earned master's degree and are pursuing mid-management positions in public and private schools that require the Texas principal certificate. These positions may include, but are not limited to campus principals, assistant principals, curriculum directors, athletic directors, special education directors, special programs directors, and human resource managers. Upon completion of the required coursework and practicum, the culminating examination is the principal TExES. Applicants must have an earned master's degree to be considered for admission to the program and two years of creditable teaching experience to be eligible for the Texas principal certificate.

Reasons to Choose WTAMU’s Educational Leadership Program

High Quality Curriculum and Experiential Learning

Meaningful and relevant online courses and hands-on field experiences are aligned to state standards to provide a balanced blend of theory, research and practice for the enhancement of each candidate’s educational leadership development. The table below demonstrates the program’s alignment to state standards and assessment requirements for Texas principals as prescribed by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). This program is uniquely designed to meet the needs of *today’s* campus leaders.

Principal Standards 19 TAC §149.2001	Assessment of Principal Performance 19 TAC §150.1022	Standards Required for the Principal Certificate 19 TAC §241.15	WTAMU Educational Leadership Core Course Titles
Instructional Leadership	Instructional Leadership	Leading Learning Ethics, Equity, and Diversity	Leading Learning Ethics, Equity, and Diversity
Human Capital	Human Capital	Human Capital	Human Capital
Executive Leadership	Executive Leadership	Executive Leadership	Executive Leadership and Group Dynamics
School Culture	School Culture	School Culture	School Culture
Strategic Operations	Strategic Operations	Strategic Operations	Strategic Operations

Note: See Appendix A for course descriptions

Value-Added Instruction

Superior online instruction and field supervision is facilitated by tenure-track and tenured professors who are not only recognized as scholars in their field, but who also complement scholarship with practical experience as principals and superintendents in Texas public schools.

Flexibility for Candidates

Candidates are permitted the flexibility to tailor their own unique program to meet their individual needs from selections of online degree and certificate courses. Courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer semesters on both full and half semester bases during the long semesters and practicums are completed on approved campuses of the candidates’ choosing. This allows candidates to advance at their self-selected paces. For those in search of a one-year program, the following is suggested whereby the candidate may start at the beginning of the fall, spring, or summer 1 semester:

Fall		Spring		Summer	
1 st ½ semester	2 nd ½ semester	1 st ½ semester	2 nd ½ semester	1 st semester	2 nd semester
EDPD 6303 or EDPD 6304*		EDPD 6303 or EDPD 6304*			
EDLD 6317	EDLD 6307	EDLD 6309	EDLD 6311	EDLD 6313	EDLD 6315
EDLD 6299**		EDLD 6299**		EDLD 6299**	

* Competency-based credit may be considered as a substitution for this course.

** Field experiences, clinical teaching, practicums, and internships required for Texas certification must be completed in a school accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or other school approved by the TEA and approved by WTAMU. A non-certification, degree only option that does not require in state field experiences, clinical teaching, practicums, and internships is available for candidates whose residency is outside the state of Texas.

See Appendix A for course descriptions.

Affordable

The WTAMU Educational Leadership program’s non-traditional approach to its degree and certification options coupled with scholarship and financial aid opportunities has created competitively priced programs of educational leadership to meet the diverse needs of its candidates, regardless of their geographic locations in the region, state, nation, or world.

Appendix A

Course Descriptions for the M.Ed. and Principal Certification Options

Graduate Education Core (Required for candidates seeking M.Ed.)

EDPD 6303 – Educational Research

Comparison of qualitative and quantitative research techniques. Utilize components of literature review, data collection and analysis to conduct a publishable action research manuscript that addresses an educational problem/question.

EDPD 6304 – Multicultural Education*

In-depth study of our pluralistic society and strategies for implementation of multicultural concepts for creating awareness, appreciation, acceptance and action toward the need to reach unity within diversity in a global context.

* Competency-based credit will be considered as a substitution for this course.

-or-

EDLD 6391 – Experiential Leadership (competency-based credit substitution)

Practical applications of multicultural concepts to ensure student success through accommodation of varied needs and delivery of appropriate programs and services in compliance with the applicable federal and state laws and priorities of the educational community.

Educational Leadership Core (Required for candidates seeking M.Ed. and/or Texas principal certification)

EDLD 6307 – Leading Learning

Advancing student achievement and teacher effectiveness through the collaborative development and implementation of high-quality instruction, informed by supervisory classroom monitoring and assessment.

EDLD 6309 – Ethics, Equity, and Diversity

Ensuring student access to effective educators, programs, and services through ethical leadership and advocacy for children.

EDLD 6311 – Executive Leadership and Group Dynamics

Building relationships through effective communication with internal and external stakeholders, focused on improved student outcomes through organizational collaboration, resiliency, and change management.

EDLD 6313 – Human Capital

Fostering high-quality teaching and professional growth of educators through effectual selection, placement, supervision, development, evaluation, and retention practices.

EDLD 6315 – Strategic Operations

Employing administrative leadership to attain collaboratively determined goals through the management of resources, implementation of policies, and coordination of school operations and programs, ensuring a safe learning environment for teacher effectiveness and positive student outcomes.

EDLD 6317 – School Culture

Working collaboratively with stakeholders to establish and implement a shared vision and culture of high expectations to support EC-12 student learning.

Educational Leadership Practicum (3 consecutive semesters – including fall, spring, and summer sections in any order at the end of one's program – required for candidates seeking M.Ed. and/or Texas principal certification)

EDLD 6299 – Educational Leadership Practicum

Supervised, full-time educator assignment in a school accredited or approved by the Texas Education Agency and approved by WTAMU.