



Quality Programs -- Expert Faculty -- Flexible Delivery

Dewar College of Education & Human Services

Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership

The Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership is an advanced degree that prepares educators to meet the GaPSC Teacher Leadership standards providing a foundation for effective collaboration with students, parents, and colleagues. These standards are related to curriculum and instruction, assessment, a school culture that fosters excellence in teaching and learning, modeling best practices in instruction, working with others to design assessments, and using data to work with colleagues in collaborative efforts to improve instruction for all students.

By completing this online degree and passing the appropriate Georgia content assessment, candidates will be eligible for the new P-12 Service Certificate in Teacher Leadership (Level 6 certification).

Admission Requirements

- Completed Graduate School admission application: <https://www.applyweb.com/vsug/menu.html> and application fee of \$45.
 - Grade point average of 3.00 or above on all previous graduate work attempted. Submission of all graduate transcripts.
 - Hold a graduate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applicants not meeting the GPA requirement may be eligible for admission by the alternative pathway. Alternative Pathway Requirements are GPA between 2.75-2.99 on a 4.0 scale and competitive scores on Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or a Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Recommended scores for admission are: GRE – 145 Verbal and 139 Quantitative; or MAT – 380.
 - Have three years of successful classroom teaching experience.
 - Clear/renewable teaching certificate at the Master's Level (L5) (not an induction certificate) and be currently employed in a school system.
 - Submission of the Superintendent of Schools Recommendation and Assurance form. School superintendent recommends and assures the necessary support for completion of program requirements.
- <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/our-programs/graduate-application-related-forms.php#eds>

Program of Study

Core Curriculum (18 hours)

- EDET 5999: Professional Orientation (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- EDET 8005: Foundations of Teacher Leadership (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- EDET 8020: Teacher Leadership Residency I (Fall, Spring)
- EDET 8030: Developing and Leading a Community of Diverse Learners (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- EDET 8040: Teacher Leadership Residency II (Fall, Spring)
- EDET 8050: Teacher Leadership Residency III (Fall, Spring)
- EDET 8880: Capstone Seminar (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Electives/Specialization Courses (9 hours)

(Graduate level courses – 5000 and above)

Themes to select from include but are not limited to:

- ESOL (endorsement)
- Gifted Education (endorsement)
- Instructional Technology
- Educational Leadership (GaPSC preservice requirements)
- Online Teaching (endorsement)
- Reading (endorsement)
- Other Subject Area Content
- Any combination of above

Total hours required for the degree - 27 semester hours

Ed. S. in Teacher Leadership Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between “Teacher Leadership” and “Educational Leadership?”

A degree in educational leadership prepares educators who are committed to serving in a leadership role (e.g. principal, assistant principal) at the building or system level. The Teacher Leadership program focuses on preparing individuals to serve in teacher leader roles in grades P-12. These roles may include providing professional development, building a school culture of continuous improvement, and becoming change agents while serving as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, or at a similar position.

2. How long does it take to complete the Teacher Leadership program?

The 27-hour program may be completed in 3 or 4 semesters, depending upon the start date. Students may also take more time to complete the program if they choose.

3. Are courses offered every semester, or is the program set up as a cohort that determines a specific order for coursework?

Many courses are offered every semester, including summer. EDET 5999, Professional Orientation, is a prerequisite for program entrance and all courses in the program must be successfully completed prior to enrolling in EDET 8880, Capstone Seminar.

4. If I am not employed in a leadership position after completing my degree in Teacher Leadership, will I still receive a salary increase for my degree?

Check with your school system and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission before making a decision based on the certificate upgrade.

5. Could you give me more information about the elective options?

Electives may include almost any course offered at the graduate level – 5000 or above. You may take education courses or courses in your content area. Many candidates earn an endorsement (Reading, Gifted, ESOL, or Online Teaching) through the elective requirement. There is also a pathway for students interested in adding Tier One Certification in Educational Leadership after graduating from the program by completing 3 additional courses (9 hours), as long as a student takes the recommended electives while enrolled in the program.

6. Could you give me more information about the residency courses?

The residency courses require various clinical experiences. For example, in one of the clinical experiences, candidates work with colleagues to design and complete a project related to families and community, In another, the candidate works with a colleague to look at planning, assessment, and use of data.

7. Is there a certification test that is required after the completion of the program?

Yes. The GACE in Teacher leadership is a performance-based assessment. Candidates receive a non-renewable certificate upgrade upon program completion and recommendation by the university, and then have one (1) year to pass the Teacher leadership GACE before the non-renewable certificate upgrade expires. More information is available at http://gace.ets.org/teacher_leadership/about

8. What is the estimated cost for tuition?

The estimated cost of the Teacher Leadership degree is \$12,245** for 4 semesters (27 sem. hrs.).

**All cost estimates are based on fall, 2019 tuition and fees.

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