



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

- Submit the application and fee to the VSU Graduate School.
- 1 year of teaching experience required
- Official transcript from the school where you obtained your highest college degree and any transcripts from schools where graduate coursework was taken. Official transcripts bear an official seal and signature and are sent to the VSU Graduate School in the original sealed envelopes. VSU transcripts will be obtained by the VSU Graduate School.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required. See below for alternative admission pathway options.
- Must hold a clear renewable teaching or service certificate at the bachelor's level (Georgia certificate level 4) or higher. Individuals with certification from states other than Georgia must provide documentation of the appropriate certificate. Eligibility will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Submit a Letter of Assurance form from a current school superintendent (form required). The form should provide verification that your school superintendent:
 - Supports your decision to pursue the degree
 - Recommends you for participation in this program
 - Agrees to provide the necessary resources for successful completion of the degree requirements, including time and access to teachers and stakeholder groups so that candidate can observe, mentor, conduct research, and provide professional learning, among other things.
- Be employed teachers able to spend a minimum of 20 hours per week in a classroom.
- Submit the Distance Learning Exemption of the VSU Medical Form.

Admission by Alternative Pathway Requirements:

Applicants not meeting the GPA requirement may be eligible for admission by the alternative pathway. Alternative pathway requirements are a GPA between 2.75 and 2.99 on a 4.0 scale; and competitive scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Recommended scores for admission:

- GRE: 145 Verbal and 139 Quantitative
- MAT: 380

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

*Work in course must focus on content of candidate's certification field.

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?

Most courses are offered every semester, but some have prerequisites and must be taken in sequence. The two sequences are the clinical sequence 8001, 8002, 8003 and the research sequence 8020, 8040, 8050.

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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