

MEd – Education Leadership

DIVISION OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



NATIONALLY RANKED — Seattle Pacific continues to be recognized as a “Best National University” by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Leadership for Learning

As our society and student population changes, the importance of ensuring all students will achieve is vitally important. The principal is a central figure of this learning experience. As the leader for learning, the principal must focus on shaping the culture and leading change, engaging families and communities in meaningful ways, being committed to the equity of opportunities for all students, and guiding ethical and moral actions.

MEd in Educational Leadership with Principal Certification

The Master of Education in Educational Leadership at SPU prepares candidates to become elementary and secondary school principals. This 45-credit program — available both on the Seattle campus and online — offers current research and best practices to help principals interact with students, teachers, parents, and their communities.

If a principal candidate already possesses a master’s degree, they may earn a second master’s (MEd) along with their certification with as few as two additional courses and a comprehensive exam. Individualized program plans will be designed by the program chair and certification candidate upon enrollment.

Internship

SPU’s educational leadership program includes a one-year, 540-hour internship that allows students to perform administrative and leadership activities under the supervision of a principal or assistant principal in a school setting. Typically, students perform 40 hours of internship duties during the summer before their internship year. In their internships, students practice effective management and leadership skills that are crucial to their future success as school administrators. Applicants are responsible for securing their own internship site and mentor. Principal internships are designed to be completed in conjunction with the intern’s full-time contract and it is not necessary to take a leave of absence. SPU faculty work with each student in the program to determine when the student is ready to complete an internship.

Certification

Successful completion of the educational leadership program qualifies graduates for a PK–12 School Principal’s Certificate in Washington state with reciprocity in other states. Candidates are required to submit a formal application to the certification officer in the College of Humanities, Education, and the Arts for the issuance of the credential.

Class Locations and Schedule

Fifteen three-credit courses are required for the master’s degree. Of those, the four Foundations and Research and one elective course can be taken on the SPU campus or online. The seven core courses for the Principal Certification program are also offered on campus and online. Classes meet one evening per week, 5:30 to 8:05 p.m. Classes offered during the Summer Session meet at SPU during weekdays. All seven Educational Leadership core courses are also offered during the day in the summer over a two-year sequence on the SPU campus.

MEd in Educational Leadership with Program Administrator Certification

The MEd in Educational Leadership also offers Program Administrator Certification. This certification prepares candidates for administrative positions in a school district central office, resource center, or other administrative center. The 45-credit academic program is virtually identical to that of the Principal Certification program, including internship, certification requirements, and class locations. However, the one-year internship occurs in a district or administrative office rather than a school. Program administrator candidates are not required to hold a teaching or ESA certificate for entry into the program.



Principal and Program Administrator Certification



Principal and Program Administrator Certificate-Only

The Principal and Program Administrator Certification programs can be taken as “stand-alone” certificates. Individuals who qualify to enter the Educational Leadership program and already have a master’s or other advanced degree do not need to complete a second master’s degree in order to obtain certification as a school principal or a district-level program administrator.

Both certificate-only programs are 30 quarter-credits and include a yearlong, nine-credit internship during which the student engages in leadership and management activities in a school or district-level setting.

As in the master’s degree program, the seven Educational Leadership core courses are offered on SPU’s main Seattle campus, or online.

With approval from Educational Leadership faculty, students may finish the program in five quarters if they complete their internship in the school year between two summer sessions.

ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS (FACE TO FACE) OPTION

The online synchronous face-to face delivery uses Teams video technology. This enables students to attend the scheduled class without traveling to a specific classroom location.

Admission Requirements

- Application (available online at spu.edu/applynow)
- Copy of the front and back of the most current teaching certificate
- Official transcript(s) from each college/university attended
- Personal statement (one to two pages)
- Résumé
- District Acknowledgment of Future Administrative Internship form (required to qualify for a Washington State Administrative certificate internship)
- Prerequisite Experience for a Principal’s Certificate form from applicants pursuing a Washington State Principal Certificate
- Two letters of recommendation (one supervisory, one professional)
- \$50 application fee
- The GRE (Graduate Record Exam) or (MAT) Miller Analogies Test will be required if GPA is less than 3.0.²

APPLICATION PRIORITY DATES

Autumn Quarter	September 1
Winter Quarter	December 1
Spring Quarter	March 1
Summer Session	June 1

QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions about the program or your candidacy, contact Dr. Julie Antilla, Educational Leadership Chair, at 206-281-2216 or antillaj@spu.edu.

Visit spu.edu/edl. If you have additional questions, contact Graduate Admissions at 206-281-2091, 800-601-0603; or gradadmissions@spu.edu.

¹Teaching certificate required for Principal Certification; not required for Program Administrator.

²GRE preferred minimum scores: Verbal: 148; Quantitative: 147. MAT preferred minimum scaled score: 400.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Seattle Pacific University
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spu.edu/graduate