**EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**Education Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Spring** October 15

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours:** 30

**Level:** Specialist

**CIP Code:** 13.0401

**Dept. Code:** LEA

**Major/College Codes:** SAS ED

**Approved** 1981

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Education

**Department:**  Leadership, Counseling, Adult, Career, and Higher Education (L-CACHE)

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu/)

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The Education Specialist (Ed.S.) in Educational Leadership degree program is designed for experienced administrators seeking to develop their capacity to lead "turnaround" or lower performing schools. Coursework in this program is specifically designed in consultation with leadership development personnel and District-level Administrators in partnering school districts.

Students in this degree program develop their ability to make student-centered decisions through integration of rigorous analysis of theory, research, and exemplary practices. An appreciative inquiry orientation and applied capstone project enables candidates to work in teams. These teams develop an improvement report and intervention plan based on analysis of literature related to: school improvement and turnaround strategies: informed and responsible use of school data, including climate and culture inventories; ethical, political, cultural and critical perspectives on school sustainable school leadership; asset-based approaches to school improvement; and knowledge of effective program models or cases.

For individuals interested in the Florida Educational Leadership Certification, please see the M.Ed. degree program. For those interested in a research-focused degree, please see the Ph.D. degree program. Courses taken in the Ed.S. degree program may be able to be transferred into the Ed.D. in Educational Program Development - Educational Innovation if students apply for and are accepted before ending their Ed.S. program of study. Please consult the program coordinator for further information.

**Accreditation**

Accredited by National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

Admission to the Education Specialist program occurs **one time per year for the spring semester**. The deadline for application is October 15 each year. Admission is based on a comprehensive evaluation of each applicant’s demonstrated academic potential to successfully complete all of the degree requirements. The process for admission to the degree program is often coordinated with partnering school districts. Interested applicants should contact the Program Coordinator for further information.

Preferred applicants should have:

* An earned master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.
* An earned grade point average of 3.50 in the master's degree and an earned undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 in the last half of the undergraduate degree program.

Applicants will also submit:

• A statement of purpose (why you are interested in pursuing the Ed.S. degree program).

• Three letters of recommendation from people knowledgeable about the applicant's academic and professional competence.

• Current vita/resume.

• As applicable to a particular cohort, other relevant information may be required as developed in coordination with partnering school districts. Contact the Program Coordinator for further information.

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Hours – 30 hours**

**Area A: Required 7000 Level Courses (15 hours)**

EDA 7206 3 Appreciative Inquiry and Organizing in Public Education

EDA 7069 3 Ethics in Educational Leadership

EDA 7692 3 Issues in Curriculum and Instruction

EDA 7215 3 Educational Politics and Engagement of Commmunities

EDA 7197 3 Current Readings and Discourse in Educational Leadership

**Area B: Required 6000 level courses (9 hours)**

EDA 6931 3 Case Studies in School Administration **OR**

EDA 6271 3 Data-based Decision Making Strategies for Educational Leaders

EDA 6106 3 Administrative Analysis and Change

EDA 6213 3 Culturally Relevant Leadership

**Area C: Capstone Project (6 hours)**

EDG 6975 3 Project: Master/Specialist

EDG 6975 3 Project: Master/Specialist

**Comprehensive Exam**

Students will be required to develop and defend a capstone research project proposal.

**Capstone Project**

Students will complete a capstone project, in which they identify and analyze educational problems and opportunities in their school system environment and apply concepts developed in the program in order to provide solutions to problems of practice.

Please be advised that program and/or course requirements are subject to change, per state legislative mandates, Florida State Department of Education program approval standards, and accreditation criteria.

**COURSES**

See https://www.systemacademics.usf.edu/course-inventory/