



M.ED. (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP) PROGRAM INFORMATION

Master of Education Program

University of Lethbridge

Rationale

The Master of Education (Educational Leadership) program reflects recent shifts in the knowledge base and in the restructuring of educational leadership programs worldwide. The program also reflects the Faculty of Education's commitment to prepare leaders for Alberta schools and school jurisdictions.

This leadership preparation program is consistent with acknowledged professional standards to meet anticipated demands for competent and committed school leaders.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Education (Educational Leadership) is to provide the knowledge and skills for candidates who wish to develop a leadership focus within their teaching career. The program includes:

- a critical examination of leadership models, theories, constructs, and contexts;
- significant opportunities to integrate local district issues and communities of practice;
- flexible exit requirements;
- a cohort structure.

Our program features three themes considered central to developing educational leaders. Those themes are:

- Leaders as Moral Stewards,
- Leaders as Educators, and
- Leaders as Community Builders.

Program Features

All students in the program will complete a common set of courses in both the core and concentration areas, with some possibilities for variation in the culminating activity. The culminating activity may be one of either a thesis **or** an in-depth internship enhanced by the development of a leadership portfolio and showcased in the form of a Capstone.

The program will be enhanced through a partnership between members of the Faculty of Education and leaders in school systems. The latter will be asked to endorse candidates, support an internship program and share data. Faculty members will be committed to collaborating with the field.

General Program Structure

The following core courses will be completed by **all** participants in the cohort:

- Education 5200 – Curriculum Studies and Classroom Practice
- Education 5300 – Foundations of Modern Educational Theory and Practice

- Education 5400 – Nature of Educational Research
- Education 5500 – Understanding Professional Practice and Professional Development

The following concentration courses will also be completed by **all** participants:

- Education 5630 – Educational Leadership and the Change Process
- Education 5631 – School Culture and the Instructional Program
- Education 5632 – Managing the Organization
- Education 5633 – Governance, Collaboration and Community Engagement
- Education 5634 – Collaborative Problem Solving

The following options are available for a culminating activity:

Option A

- Thesis (four-course equivalent) Note: Students choosing to complete a thesis will be required to complete a 13 course-equivalent program.

OR

Option B

- Education 5635: Educational Leadership Internship I (1-course equivalent), **and**
- Education 5637: Educational Leadership (Internship II) (1-course equivalent), **and**
- Education 6006: Capstone

OR

Option C

- Education 5635: Leadership Internship I (1-course equivalent), **and**
- an approved elective (1-course equivalent), **and**
- Education 6006: Capstone

Note: Students who elect and are approved to complete courses over and above the 12 courses required for the M.Ed. program will be assessed a program fee and tuition fee for each additional course.

Cohort Structure

The Master of Education (Educational Leadership) program will be delivered in a cohort format in which participants will progress through a pre-determined sequence of courses as a group.

This program is delivered in a blended format. See program schedule for cohort location and course delivery details.

Summer courses will be offered in May/June (online) and for a three-week period in July (normally, on U. of L. campus unless an alternate location has been determined by Faculty). Fall (September – December), and Spring (January – April) courses will be offered online.

A maximum of 20 participants will be admitted to each cohort.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Master of Education (Educational Leadership) program must meet the academic qualifications for admission to the M.Ed. (General) program. As applicants are admitted on a competitive basis, the following criteria will also be used in the selection process:

1. Grade point average (3.00 on the most recent 20 university-graded courses),
2. B.Ed. or its academic equivalent from a recognized degree-granting institution,
3. 2 years of successful teaching (or other relevant educational experience)
4. Results of an interview. For each cohort, a short-list of applicants who meet the criteria will be developed. Each of the short-listed candidates will be interviewed by members of the Leadership Selection Committee who will make a recommendation for admission to the Graduate Programs in Education Committee. Interviewed candidates will be

requested to provide (if applicable) written evidence from the applicant's employing jurisdiction of the applicant's leadership potential. This letter also should indicate support for the applicant in a leadership internship within the jurisdiction. Although such a letter is not required for admission, the application will be enhanced by evidence of jurisdiction support.

5. Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum of 5 years of successful teaching experience.

Application

Application deadline: November 1.

Applications must be submitted on the [Application for Admission – Master of Education Degree Programs](#) form.

Application Procedure

Along with the application form, candidates are required to submit the following:

- Academic transcripts (including proof of graduation for the baccalaureate degree and transcripts of all post-baccalaureate work, if any). Transcripts must be sent directly from the issuing institution to the Registrar's Office and Student Services (ROSS).
- Three completed letters of reference are submitted directly by the referee to ROSS:
 - one referee under whom the applicant has studied at the university level;
 - two referees with whom the applicant has worked professionally.
- Letter of intent indicating the candidate's reason for applying.
- Curriculum vitae (c.v.). The c.v. includes academic background, work/volunteer experience, awards, scholarships, and publications.
- The [Verification of Work/Volunteer Experience Form](#) confirms years/hours of paid or volunteer experience. This form should be completed by the employer or someone in an equivalent supervisory capacity (such as human resources/payroll office). Evidence of at least 2 years of successful teaching or other relevant educational experience is required. As this letter only lists years/hours accumulated, it is separate and distinct from the letters of reference.

All documentation must be received by the Registrar's Office and Student Services on or before the November 1 deadline. Documentation received following the deadline will not be considered by the Committee.

Admission Decisions

Admission is determined by the Graduate Programs in Education Committee, on recommendation from the Leadership Selection Committee. Members of the committee base admission decisions on all the available information submitted by or on behalf of the applicant.