EMU’s Specialist of Arts in Educational Leadership is a post-master’s program for prospective and practicing educational leaders. The program may either provide advanced administration preparation for P-12 schools and institutions of higher education and/or the course work required by the State of Michigan for the central office endorsement.

Additional course work is required should a student wish to qualify for the building level administration certificate.

The majority of the concentration and cognate courses are conveniently available weeknights and weekends in hybrid, face-to-face, and online formats on campus and in select off campus locations.

Admission Requirements

For admission an applicant must:

1. Complete the Graduate School Application online at emich.edu/graduate/apply/.
2. **ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.**
3. Have earned a valid master’s degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Official transcripts must be submitted. Official electronic transcripts can be sent to transcripts_admissions@emich.edu.
4. International students must meet the language requirements of the Graduate School.
5. Applicants must have a 3.3 master’s GPA or better.
6. Submit recommendations from two professional supervisors and/or supervising professors that can address the quality of the applicant’s professional work.
7. Submit a resume detailing their professional and educational goals.
8. Complete a personal statement describing the reasons to pursue a graduate degree program in educational leadership including career and educational goals. The essay must be a minimum of 250 words and will be reviewed as an indicator of writing ability.

Admission Process

The **rolling** admission process for the certificate is as follows:

1. The Office of Admissions will receive and gather ALL required documents online.

   Contact the Office of Admissions via:
   Email: documents_admissions@emich.edu
   Phone: 734.487.3400

2. Completed applications that contain the required GPAs, recommendation forms, and the resume will be forwarded to the coordinator of advising for the educational leadership program.
3. Completed applications will be reviewed by the faculty review committee. Those applicants who...
have submitted acceptable GPAs, the resume, personal statement and recommendation forms will be admitted and assigned an advisor. **The specialist degree program must be completed within a six-year period.**

An application may be deemed “questionable” due to a combination of low GPA, fair or poor recommendations, poor writing ability and/or statements that are inconsistent with the student’s goals as an administrator. These “questionable” applications will be reviewed by the faculty who will assess verbal skills, writing skills, educational background and GPAs.

4. All applicants will be notified.
5. All decisions by the faculty regarding admissions are final.

**Curriculum**

The Specialist degree program requires a minimum of 32 new hours beyond the master’s degree. Students work closely with their advisors in developing programs that will prepare them for their career goals.

Candidates for the specialist degree in educational leadership must satisfactorily complete all work on the program of study and achieve an overall GPA of 3.3 (B+). The requirements outlined below provide the basic guidelines with in which the student’s program is developed.

**Concentration Area Courses (18 hours)**

EDLD 725 Superintendency & Dist. Level Leadshp (3)  
Replacable if Higher Education emphasis
EDLD 710 Leadership Theory (3)
EDLD 740 Advanced Organizational Theory (3)
9 hours in consultation with an advisor

**Applied Research Courses (8 hours)**

EDLD 713 Field-Based Research (4)
EDLD 787 -789 Internship in Ed. Admin (2-4)
EDPS 621 Statistical Applications in Ed. Research (2)

**Cognate Courses (6 hours)**

Students select courses in consultation with their graduate advisor.

**Culminating Experience / Field Based Research**

The culminating experience for the specialist degree is the student’s field-based research study. It is expected that this project will be presented to an audience of professional peers.

The field-based research course, EDLD 713, is available to specialist degree students winter or summer term only. Students are encouraged to contact the department at least one semester prior for permission to register for the course.

**Advisor Information**

Ron Flowers, Ed.D.  
Department Head  
rflowers@emich.edu

**Additional Department Information**

Information regarding the following can be found on the department website:

- Course Subtitutions / Program Changes
- Courses Outside the Program
- Internships

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