Advancing in Education

The Ed Specialist program for K-12 Administration at UMSL’s College of Education offers a unique opportunity for those holding a Masters degree or above to broaden your horizons and increase your impact on education in the community.

The program is theory based, research driven and practitioner oriented in an effort to ensure program participants are well prepared for the expanding role of school administrators at various levels of the school or school district. Graduates of this program are highly qualified to hold leadership positions in schools, school district central offices, community agencies and government.

UMSL educator preparation programs are designed to prepare education professionals to assume transformative roles in their communities and careers. Your studies will involve you deeply into the fabric of communities to experience the essence of school leadership within the context of social, economic and political realities.

Your preparation as a school administrator will involve:

- Developing an understanding of the relation of schooling to the ideals of American democracy
- Developing critical analytical skills to ensure that school practices are consistent with the American democratic ideals
- Acquiring knowledge about the range of human and technical aspects of school administration
What can you do with an Ed Specialist degree in K-12 administration?

Most people pursuing an Ed Specialist degree in school administration are seeking advancement to an administrator such as a school principal or a district superintendent.

**School principals** are responsible for overseeing the academic tone of an elementary, middle or secondary school and creating a culture conducive to learning. Principals work with other educators to ensure that the students meet academic standards required at the state and national level.

**School superintendents** are responsible for ensuring that schools function within budget and provide quality education in a safe environment. At the direction of the school board, school superintendents draft policies for board approval that govern school operations, and set goals for schools such as improving test scores or developing curriculum. Duties range from hiring teachers to disciplining students.

**Theory based, research driven and practitioner oriented**

Our program will provide you with a wide variety of opportunities to acquire the knowledge and intellectual skills necessary to be a successful school administrator in American schools. As an Ed Specialist candidate, you will become an active partner with professors and school administrators in shaping the structures of educational institutions. Your scholarly analyses, research and continual interactions with practicing school administrators during field experiences such as internships, prepares you as an effective school and community leader.

**Innovative Education… Engaged Educators**

Our programs prepare students to develop as “community educators” instead of “school teachers”; community leaders instead of “principals”; and regard “educator development” with the belief that becoming a professional educator is part art, part science, and a life-long process.

**UMSL at a glance**

The University of Missouri—St. Louis is a public, research university located in Missouri’s most populous and economically important region. Founded in 1963, UMSL attracts more students than any other university in the St. Louis region.

We offer you 54 undergraduate degree choices from our five colleges. And we partner with more than 400 companies and organizations for our internship program. You’ll get out of the classroom, gain practical experience, make connections and jump-start your career.