The UMSL two-year School Leadership for Innovation and Design program features a full-year residency and community externships, nurturing a much broader range of leadership competencies than ever before.
UMSL’s School Leadership for Innovation and Design program revitalizes the way we think about and implement leader preparation for Missouri schools. New design of curriculum, assessment, and experience ensure that successful students are prepared, capable and competent building leaders. Our year-long residency program, gives UMSL students an enriched experience better preparing them for school administration.

“With the unique and increasing challenges facing school districts today, a quality leadership program presents a great opportunity for future school administrators to gain the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the next step in their careers.”

— Don Bohannon, Superintendent, Special School District of St. Louis County

**Application and Admissions Process**

**Prerequisites**

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**  
Minimum of 3 years’ successful PK-12 teaching experience in a school system. This may include experience from another state, and private, public, parochial, independent or charter schools.*

**CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
Candidates wishing to be placed in a public school for the residency experience must hold or be eligible to obtain a valid Professional Missouri Teaching Certificate through Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**RESIDENCY AVAILABILITY**  
Candidates preferably will have the ability to be released from their current position for one year, during the second year of the MEd program, for the year-long residency. The University will assist in the placement process. Candidates will interview for residency placement at the end of the first semester.†

* Successful experience means that the candidate has not been non-renewed or terminated for any disciplinary or performance issues from any district or school.

† Candidates must be accepted by a school district. If a candidate can not be released for a full year, alternative arrangements will need to be arranged.

‡ Candidates must apply to the School by the March 1 and meet all requirements for to begin the program at the start of the next cohort.

**How To Apply**

**APPLICATION**  
Complete application to the UMSL Graduate School by March 1 at [gcoe.umsl.edu/applyNow](http://gcoe.umsl.edu/applyNow).

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**  
Submit three letters of recommendation from current and/or school district in which you were most recently employed. Letters are accepted from people in positions of or similar to Principal, Head of Schools, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Director or Superintendent. Recommendation letters should be submitted to Carla Frierson at frierson@umsl.edu.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENTS**  
Candidates must complete and pass the supplemental assessments. Entry assessments may be found and completed at [gcoe.umsl.edu/assessmentA](http://gcoe.umsl.edu/assessmentA) and [gcoe.umsl.edu/assessmentB](http://gcoe.umsl.edu/assessmentB).

**Final Admission Determination**

**CANDIDATE INTERVIEW**  
Each candidate who successfully completes and passes all application steps and requirements by March 1 will be interviewed by the UMSL School Leadership for Innovation and Design leadership team. This interview is intended to finalize determinations about leadership capacity, personal aptitude, understanding of quality teaching and effective use of data, collaboration, student-centeredness and diversity and family engagement. Candidates will be informed of the final admissions decision at least two months prior to the start of their program.