

Educational Specialist in Leadership Podcast

Hello, my name is Kelsey and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership graduate program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Educational Specialist in Leadership degree program will prepare students to become building level leaders such as principals, assistant principals or athletic directors in practical settings through various types of courses. This is a 33 credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years as a full-time student or up to a maximum of 8 years as a part-time student.

Many graduates of this program fill positions as principals in K-12 schools. According to the US Department of Labor, employment of elementary, middle, and high school principals is projected to grow 6% from 2014 – 2024.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Application to the Educational Specialist in Leadership program requires three letters of recommendation addressing the candidate's potential for graduate study. A GPA of 3.0 or better for the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate work taken from a regionally accredited institution is also required. A previous master's degree from a regionally accredited institution will be accepted in lieu of the minimum grade point average.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the College of Education – Educational Leadership website, www.gvsu.edu/grad/eduleadership/.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Educational Specialist in Leadership program curriculum includes a 3 credit hour course in Social Foundations and 18 credit hours in the Educational Leadership emphasis. An additional 6 credit hours will be dedicated to practicum experience or internship, with 3 credit hours in Research Foundations, and 3 – 6 credit hours dedicated to a capstone project or thesis. We also offer an 18 credit hour administrator certificate program for those students who already hold a Master's degree and wish to obtain a Michigan Department of Education administrator certificate. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/eduleadership/.

There are several factors that distinguish the Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership graduate program at GVSU. Smaller class sizes and student personalization sets our program apart from other Educational Leadership programs. Faculty members are leaders in their fields, melding together the philosophy of education and your needs as a practitioner. In addition, GVSU offers full degree programming in Traverse City, Detroit, and Grand Rapids for this graduate program.

That is just a snapshot of the Educational Leadership graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Cathy Meyer-Looze, at meyerlca@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.