

MASTER OF EDUCATION: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

CONTACT: Kathleen Kingston, Ed.D.

PHONE: 814-871-5626

E-MAIL: kingston002@gannon.edu

OVERVIEW

Students pursuing the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction can also seek Principal Certification.

The Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction is a natural pathway to Principal Certification. Principals who are instructional leaders understand that effective leadership focuses on improving teaching and learning and requires knowledge and skills that are grounded in the advanced study of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Aspiring principals will be prepared first as a master teacher. Gannon University is in the process of aligning the M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction with the National Board Professional Teacher Certification Standards, ISLLC standards for School Leaders, and the Pennsylvania Leadership Standards of the Grow Program. Gannon is one of four Centers of Teaching Excellence in Pennsylvania that supports teachers who are preparing for National Board Certification.

Students in the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction are required to complete a portfolio. The portfolio enables students, through action research, to develop projects that will impact their classroom, school, and/or school district. As a result of these projects, students have made significant change in schools and have emerged as leaders in their respective districts. This foundation in applied leadership as well as expertise in curriculum, instruction, and assessment serves to strengthen students' ability to be successful as principals and educational leaders.

Students who wish to pursue Principal Certification as part of the Master's in Curriculum and Instruction will need to talk to their advisor early so that they can take the proper course sequence and meet all program requirements. Additional credits beyond the M.Ed. are required for Principal Certification.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and fulfillment of requirements for admission to the graduate program at Gannon University
- Final, official transcripts from all colleges attended
- An undergraduate cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- A completed application for admission including three letters of recommendation
- Evidence by previous academic record that the applicant has the general ability and preparation necessary to pursue graduate study successfully

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

This program requires the student to take 25 credits of core courses and 6 credits of required electives focused on preparation for school leadership for completion of the M. Ed. If students wish to pursue principal certification, they will take an additional 12 credits of Principal Certification coursework including 90 hours of practicum and a 200-hour internship.

MASTER OF EDUCATION: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

GEDU 503	Educational Leadership (3 credits)
GEDU 505	Classroom Discipline (3 credits)
GEDU 601	Educational Research Methods (3 credits)
GEDU 603	Current Issues in Education (3 credits)
GEDU 604	Student Assessment and Educational Statistics (3 credits)
GEDU 621	School Curriculum (3 credits)
GEDU 637	Learning Theory (3 credits)
GEDU 724	Computer Applications for Administrators (3 credits in place of Advanced Computer Applications)
GEDU 602	Portfolio (1 credit)

Required Cognate for Curriculum and Instruction/Principal Certification Program (6 credits)

Students must apply and be admitted to the Principal Certification Program before enrolling in the following courses:

GEDU 721	The Principal as Instructional Leader (3 credits)
GEDU 720	Supervision and Evaluation of Instruction (3 credits)
GEDU 725	Principal Practicum I (1 credit) Integrated into GEDU 720

This course sequence completes the requirements for the M.Ed.

Total credits required for M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction 31

The following additional courses are required for Principal certification.

GEDU 722	School Financial Management (3 credits)
GEDU 726	Principal Practicum II (1 credit) Integrated into GEDU 722
GEDU 723	Legal Aspects of Educational Administration (3 credits)
GEDU 727	Principal Practicum III (1 credit) Integrated into GEDU 723
GEDU 728	Principal Internship (3 credits with approval of program director)

Total additional required credits for Principal Certification 12

Candidates must have completed the M.Ed., passed appropriate Praxis exams, documented five years of experience working under a certificate, and attained a 3.0 GPA in order to be recommended for certification by Gannon University.

Principal Certification Admission Requirements:

Applicants must:

- Complete an application for admission and submit three letters of recommendation, including one from the current principal and one from the current superintendent or assistant superintendent
- Be currently enrolled in the Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction through Gannon University
- Have a 3.0 GPA
- Present a copy of educational certification

Please note:

- Principal Certification cohorts will be offered continuously on Gannon's campus subject to adequate enrollment.
- Principal Certification cohorts will be offered in outreach areas when there is minimum enrollment of eight students.
- If the minimum enrollment is not met in outreach cohorts, students may have to travel to complete the Principal Certification courses or wait for a cohort to form near them.
- Previously earned PLS or other courses may not be used for the course requirements.

CORE COURSES

GEDU 503 Educational Leadership (3 credits)

This course studies models of leadership, issues dealing with human development, communications, culture, change management, developing leadership capacity, and assessment of leadership.

GEDU 505 Classroom Discipline (3 credits)

This course is a study of major educational disciplines, theory, and practical applications for teachers as they use their knowledge and skills for effective classroom discipline.

GEDU 601 Educational Research Methods (3 credits)

This course examines research techniques, interpreting research reports, employing data analysis procedures and applying statistical techniques to further investigation.

GEDU 602 Portfolio (1 credit)

The final development, presentation, and evaluation of the portfolio project.

GEDU 603 Current Issues in Education (3 credits)

This course provides the opportunity for graduate students to explore current education topics in depth.

GEDU 604 Student Assessment and Educational Statistics (3 credits)

This course explores the various statistics and assessments that teachers utilize in the classroom.

GEDU 621 School Curriculum (3 credits)

This course examines the theory, history, purposes, and evolution of curriculum. Knowledge, understanding, and the skills necessary to analyze and generate school curriculum and to take a leadership role in curricular changes are emphasized.

GEDU 637 Learning Theory (3 credits)

This course examines human learning processes, the nature and kinds of learning, factors that influence learning, and major learning theories.

GEDU 720 Supervision and Evaluation of Instruction (3 credits)

GEDU 725 Principal Practicum I (1 credit)

This course provides an introduction to the nature of instructional supervision. It provides competencies in the appraisal of teaching, the measurement of teacher performance, and familiarity with techniques related to the evaluation of teaching. It includes systematic analysis and evaluation, and integrates the current concepts, planning, measurement instruments and validity of appraisal systems.

GEDU 721 The Principal as Instructional Leader (3 credits)

This course examines the activities of the elementary, middle, and high school administrator in depth. It includes topics on general administration, staff, students, curriculum, finances, services, equipment and supplies, school plant, and public and professional relationships.

GEDU 722 School Financial Management (3 credits)

GEDU 726 Principal Practicum II (1 credit)

This course examines the legal and other factors governing financial policies and practices in public schools, sources of revenue, budgeting, disbursement of funds, school plant, records, and insurance. It emphasizes knowledge and understanding of the major tasks and methods involved in meeting financial responsibilities in the school and the educational system.

GEDU 723 Legal Aspects of Educational Administration (3 credits)

GEDU 727 Principal Practicum III (1 credit)

This course examines the major areas of school law with particular emphasis on the school code of Pennsylvania. Topics include tort liability of school officials and teachers, the legal structure of public education, control of pupil conduct, desegregation, church-school relations, teachers' rights and responsibilities, pupils' rights, professional negotiations, the courts' impact on curriculum, the use of school property, the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, and the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*, in addition to issues in the area of special education.

GEDU 724 Computer Applications for Administrators (3 credits)

This course provides a review of different levels of computer literacy and the administrator's role in integrating technology into the educational setting. Possible topics include scheduling, curriculum management systems, online educational programs, management information systems, databases, data analysis, and personnel screening.

GEDU 728 Principal Internship (3 credits)

This course is designed to be the capstone experience of the Principal Certification program. The course will provide experiences designed to develop and enhance the overall effectiveness of the administrative candidate's competencies. The internship is designed as an integrating experience and an opportunity for the student to practice those skills and competencies learned in the classroom setting and to learn certain skills best taught in a school environment. It consists of planned experiences and emphasizes direct involvement in school administration at sites mutually acceptable to the student and the program director.

Office of Graduate Studies

109 University Square, Erie, PA 16541-0001 λ 814/871-7474 or Toll Free 1 800 GANNON-U λ Fax 814/871-5827
Web Site: <http://www.gannon.edu>