Long recognized for excellence in the preparation of school superintendents, our Ed.S. program is the first in the state to match new standards mandated by the Illinois General Assembly. Our graduates join a significant number of alumni regarded as visionary leaders in education, applying research-informed knowledge and skills to foster continuous improvement in the academic environments they manage. Our program spans two full years with two courses each semester (fall, spring and summer) in organizational theory; leadership theory; school finance and facilities management; and current trends in educational research.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must have at least two years of experience on a current and valid administrative endorsement as well as current employment in the Illinois school districts where they will complete their internships. Admission decisions are made by faculty and are based on the total profile of each applicant.

**Course Delivery**

Recognizing that many of our students are full-time working professionals, our Ed.S. program is offered in a cohort format with convenient evening classes. We rotate cohort offerings between our main campus in DeKalb and our satellite campuses in Rockford, Hoffman Estates and Naperville. Courses are offered in a traditional classroom setting but might require additional online components.

**By the Numbers**

One out of every five Superintendents in Illinois is an NIU graduate.

209 of our alumni hold prestigious positions throughout our home state:

- 4 Regional or State Level Superintendents
- 70 Assistant or Deputy Superintendents
- 135 Superintendents

---

Apply June 1 for fall start or December 10 for spring start.
Preparation of Visionary Leaders

Our Ed.S. program is newly designed with one goal in mind: to prepare visionary leaders with the skills, knowledge and professional dispositions to effectively implement and manage an educational environment that uses evidence of student learning to drive continuous school improvement. Every aspect of the program, from the admission process to the submission of the capstone portfolio, supports this objective – and we are the first in Illinois to comply with the updated state standards. Although we recognize that most of our graduates will pursue work as K-12 public school administrators, the material and experiences we provide also equips students to work in higher education, educational policy and the nonprofit sector.

Application Process:
Submit a degree-seeking application online at go.niu.edu/gradapply. Be sure to select Educational Administration (Ed.S.).
You will need to include the following items:
- Three letters of recommendation—provide the names and emails of three references. They will be sent a link via email to complete an electronic recommendation form.
- Goal/personal statement—please discuss your education, professional progress, goals and reasons for applying.
- Official transcripts—the application portal allows you to temporarily upload unofficial copies but you will need to submit official copies. If sent electronically they should go to gradsch@niu.edu.
- Official GRE score report—the GRE test score requirement can be waived if you have a master’s degree from an accredited university with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Please contact the LEPF department for more information.
- Current resume.

Completed applications will be reviewed by the program faculty in the order they are received. Students are accepted to this program under conditional admission. Formal admission will be granted after a review of assignments and activities completed during the first semester of coursework.

Transfer Credits
Credits earned in the Ed.S. program are transferrable into the Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Be sure to contact your current school district about the availability of tuition vouchers or professional development funds that can be used for continuing education.