



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

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*"The district licensure program at Wichita State is fantastic. The instructors shared practical applications and provided hands on experiences. Many of the instructors were practitioners who understood the workings and responsibilities associated with holding a district license. The rigor and support helped me prepare for my superintendency."*

**Craig Wilford**  
Superintendent  
Derby USD 260

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*"The district level licensure program at WSU is excellent. I know there are online programs that provide the same coursework, but at WSU students have the opportunity to work with instructors who are in the field. Working superintendents can draw upon their experiences for classroom discussion that an online program cannot provide. It was so beneficial to hear their insight and to exchange ideas with the other students. I am grateful for the contacts and friendships I made while taking the classes. It was a great experience."*

**Suzan Patton**  
Director of Curriculum and Personnel  
USD #382- Pratt



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Department of  
Educational Leadership

# DISTRICT LEVEL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

*\*This program is offered exclusively at the  
WSU South Campus (Derby) and West  
Campus (Maize).*

## Educational Leadership

### Department Mission Statement

The Department of Educational Leadership is committed to providing innovative, collaborative education opportunities for the practitioner-scholar in diverse settings

### District Level Certification Program Description

The Educational Leadership Program offers a 21 credit hour program leading to district-level certification/licensure. District-level certification/licensure provides an opportunity for persons who currently hold building-level certification/licensure to participate in advanced graduate training.

Students in the district school administrator program are required to take 21 hours of WSU graduate education—including 6 hours of a supervised internship at the district level, three hours of district level personnel, three hours of power and politics specially focused on equity, diversity, and engaging the community as partners in education, three hours of school finance, three hours of administrative supervision of special education, and three hours of school plant and facilities to successfully complete successfully the professional education sequence appropriate for the major. In addition, students must take and submit scores on the School Superintendent Assessment (SSA) prior to completing the internship.

### Program Prerequisites:

1. Admission to the Graduate School\*
2. Three recommendations from supervisors and/or professional peers\*
3. Evidence of certification at the building level for a role in the public/private schools and at least three years of accredited experience.
4. A five hundred word statement that discusses your leadership experience (formal/informal; professional/non-professional)\*.
5. Minimum grade-point average (G.P.A.) of 3.25 for the first 30 hours of graduate course work leading to a professional education license from an accredited institution

### Academic Requirements

#### Summer

EL 953 (3): Financial Support of Education

#### Fall

EL 884 (3): Leadership in Vision, Collaboration and Planning  
EL 956 (3): Human Services Leadership  
EL 992 (3): Superintendency/Internship

#### Spring

EL 963 (3): Politics and Power in Education  
EL 964 (3): Administrative Supervision of Special Education  
EL 992 (3): Superintendency/Internship

\*Forms can be found on-line

*“Wichita State prepared me well for the job of Superintendent. I felt very well prepared for my first experience and have relied on the knowledge gained and the contacts that were made during my educational studies. I would say that one of the strong points of the program when I went through in the mid to late 90s was that fact that there was a balance of college professors and current superintendents teaching the classes. This gave insight on not only the philosophy of the position but also the contacts, information and knowledge from those who were actually serving in that capacity.”*

**Thomas J. Alstrom**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Cheney U.S.D. #268

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*“The District Level Program encompasses all of the necessary areas that a district administrator faces, and provides an opportunity to obtain a district level license.”*

**Alicia Thompson**  
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools  
USD 259

*The University reserves the right to revise or change rules, charges, fees, schedules, courses, requirements for degrees and any other regulations affecting students whenever considered necessary or desirable.*