



Principal Certification Program Administrator Certification

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Leaders for tomorrow's schools

The WSU Spokane Principal and Program Administrator Professional Certificate programs provide course work in Spokane and Wenatchee.

Program faculty have a strong commitment to providing an exemplary preparation program for beginning school administrators in a high-stakes accountability environment. There is a strong nexus between intended student outcomes of the preparation program and the expectations for administrators to lead highly effective schools. The "Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools" as endorsed by the Washington State Board of Education provides an overall framework for the purposes of Washington State University's administrative preparation program. The program is committed to preparing school leaders who have a passion about the importance of quality leadership and a clear understanding of how to positively impact student learning and achievement.

Program Faculty

Jim Howard, Associate Professor,
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Cost and Credits

Participants enroll in one three-credit university course for each of four semesters, two three-credit sections of internship, and two three-credit summer courses, for a program total of 24 credits. Participants pay graduate tuition fees, which is currently \$423 per credit. Tuition is due at the start of each semester.

Application Process

We are currently accepting applications for our next cohort of students who will begin the program in 2010.

Application is a multi-step process:

- First, you must apply to the WSU Graduate School for acceptance to the university.
- Second, you must apply to the Department of Educational Leadership for acceptance into the certification program.

Please note: Application to the master's degree program requires an additional application process; please call for advising and materials for applying to multiple programs.

Program Principles

To prepare school leaders with the leadership and management skills needed to improve student learning in a variety of school environments the program includes the following principles:

- * Provide relevant and rigorous course work that closely aligns with expectations for school building and district leaders.
- * Provide a rigorous field-based internship organized around the six professional standards from Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC).
- * Collaborate closely with school district mentors to plan and supervise internship experiences.
- * Encourage and facilitate networking among administrative candidates through participation in seminars and workshops with interns from other institutions.
- * Deliver instruction by faculty members who have experience, skills, and knowledge as school building and district leaders.

Internship

It is very important that an intern has release time from his or her other responsibilities to experience and practice the role of the principal, to be involved in the day-to-day operation of the school, and to participate in leadership professional development opportunities.

The Washington State-Funded Educational Leadership Intern Program provides funds to school districts for release time for individuals participating in an administrative intern program. Grants are awarded each year through a competitive grant application process. Spokane and Wenatchee interns are expected to apply for this grant in January of the first year of the two year internship to support their second year internship activities.

Program requirements and advanced degrees

Education courses taken in Spokane may be used as supporting course work for students admitted to a WSU degree program, such as the Ed.M or Ed.D. Administrative certificate applicants must have a master's degree from an accredited institution in order to apply for the administrative certificate. Students may work on the master's degree and the certificate at the same time, and most of the course work in the principal/program administrator certificate programs may be applied to the Ed.M. in Educational Leadership offered through WSU Spokane.

Applicants must hold or have held a valid teaching certificate or an ESA certificate with appropriate documentation of successful school-based experience in an instructional role with students.