

# Education Specialist: Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education

## **Degree Type**

Education Specialist

## Program Description

32 - 43 semester credits required. More credits may be required depending on the program director's evaluation of the student's previous master's degree. There are three tracks within this degree – DSE and Exceptional Child Generalist endorsement, DSE and School Principal endorsement, or DSE and Superintendent endorsement.

The Ed.S. Director of Special Education classes emphasize the administrator as an *instructional leader* as well as a *servant leader*. Ethical decision making, creative problem solving, and professional growth are other areas of emphasis. In the last semester of the program, each student will enroll in EDUC7595B Director of Special Education Practicum Portfolio Binder (0-1) credits where they will upload their artifacts of learning.

The program is in a fully online format, with some courses scheduling synchronous video class sessions. We encourage students to attend these ‘live’ sessions as they are available. Archived recorded sessions may be available for review.

Successful completion of the degree qualifies the graduate for recommendation to the State of Idaho for a Director of Special Education endorsement and one of the following endorsements (K-12 Exceptional Child Generalist endorsement, Pre-K-12 School Principal endorsement, or Pre-K-12 Superintendent endorsement on an Idaho Administrator Certificate) dependent on which track is taken. NOTE: An Institutional Recommendation (IR) is only valid for two years after completion of the degree. Therefore, the student should apply for a certificate revision or renewal within that time frame.

It is the student's responsibility to submit the appropriate paperwork and fees to the Idaho State Department of Education for obtaining certifications and endorsements in Idaho. Current forms and information are available from the ISDE website. Students should check the Internet and other sources for specific requirements for certification in other states.

Every Educational Leadership student will be registered for the approved accreditation and assessment software, Portfolium, during EDUC8000 Orientation: Graduate Education. There is a fee associated with this course to cover the cost of the student Portfolium account..

## Required Courses for Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education and Exceptional Child Generalist Endorsement Track (Online):

Has a School Principal certification and is a school administrator or is in the role of Director of Special Education.

Item #	Title	Credits
EDUC8000	Orientation: Graduate Education	0
EDUC7536	Mental Health and Trauma Informed Care	3
EDUC7538	Methods in Behavioral Intervention and Treatment	3
EDUC7540	Research, Theory, and Intervention of Reading and Literacy Difficulties	3
EDUC7548	Methods and Adaptations for Exceptional Learners	3
EDUC7549	IEPs and Transition	3
EDUC7555	Mixed Methods Research	3
EDUC7556	Conceptual Statistics and Applications for Educators	3
EDUC7573	Technology: Special Education	3
EDUC7575	Legal and Financial Issues in Education	3
EDUC7576	Special Education Law	3
EDUC7586	Assessment and Collaboration	3
EDUC7595B	Director of Special Education Practicum Portfolio Binder	0-1
EDUC7595G	Practicum in Special Education and Related Services	4
EDUC7596IV	Internship in Teaching Special Education	4
EDUC7596IVB	Internship in Teaching Special Education Portfolio Binder	0-1
EDUC7598D	Special Education Policies and Procedures	2

**EDUC7556:** *If not completed during the certification process for Building Administrator or during their MED program.*

**EDUC7596IV:** *For Exceptional Child Generalist endorsement only.*

## Required Courses for Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education and Principal Endorsement Track (Online):

M.Ed. in Special Education completed or in the role of Director of Special Education.

Item #	Title	Credits
EDUC8000	Orientation: Graduate Education	0
	EDUC7511 or EDUC7553	3
EDUC7556	Conceptual Statistics and Applications for Educators	3
EDUC7575	Legal and Financial Issues in Education	3
EDUC7579	Special Education Law for Administrators	2
EDUC7581	Instructional Supervision and Leadership	3
EDUC7584	Data Driven Decision-Making	3
EDUC7585	Administering Human Resources	3
EDUC7595B	Director of Special Education Practicum Portfolio Binder	0-1
EDUC7595G	Practicum in Special Education and Related Services	4
	EDUC7596III The Principalship/Internship in School Principalship (two semesters)	6
EDUC7596IIIB	Building Administrator Internship Portfolio Binder	0-1
EDUC7598D	Special Education Policies and Procedures	2

*EDUC7556, EDUC7584: If not completed during the certification process for Building Administrator or during their MED program.*

## Required Courses for Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education and Superintendent Endorsement Track (Online):

Principal certification completed and be in the role of Director of Special Education.

Item #	Title	Credits
EDUC8000	Orientation: Graduate Education	0
EDUC7556	Conceptual Statistics and Applications for Educators	3
EDUC7579	Special Education Law for Administrators	2
EDUC7584	Data Driven Decision-Making	3
EDUC7595B	Director of Special Education Practicum Portfolio Binder	0-1
EDUC7595G	Practicum in Special Education and Related Services	4
EDUC7598D	Special Education Policies and Procedures	2
EDUC8670	Labor Relations in Schools	3
EDUC8671	Educational Change: A Historical Perspective	3
EDUC8672	The Superintendency	3
EDUC8673	Advanced School Finance	3
EDUC8674	School Facilities	3
EDUC8675	Public Relations and Marketing for Schools	3
EDUC8676	Special Populations: Issues and Resources	3
	EDUC8678 Central Office Internship (two semesters)	4
EDUC8678B	Central Office Internship Portfolio Binder	0-1

If Principal Certification has not been obtained, it may be obtained through a Master of Education in Building Administration degree or an Education Specialist degree. Please see Master of Education or Education Specialist, Educational Leadership-Building Administrator.

## Admission Requirements - Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education (three tracks)

1. For Exceptional Child Generalist track: A master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university plus a Principal's certification, serving as an administrator (building or district level) in a district. For Principal's track: A master's degree in Exceptional Child, Special Education, or a related field (as determined by the program director) from a regionally accredited college or university. For Superintendent's track: A master's degree in Exceptional Child, Special Education, or a related field (as determined by the program director) from a regionally accredited college or university plus a Principal's certification.
2. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 in the master's program.
3. Certification/Licensure as a classroom teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, or building administrator based on a recommendation from a state-approved higher education preparation program.
4. Have four (4) years of full-time certificated/licensed experience working with students while under contract in an accredited school setting before degree completion.
5. Approval by the Graduate Education Admissions Committee.

The Graduate Education Admissions Committee may approve exceptions to regular admission requirements.

## Application Requirements - Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education

All applicants to the program are responsible for familiarity with Idaho Code Section 33-1208; no person convicted of a felony or who would otherwise be denied certification or have certification revoked under Idaho Code 33-1208 will be admitted to the Director of Special Education program.

The following requirements must be received by Admissions a minimum of one week before classes start, and are online, mailed or emailed as indicated. For mail: Northwest Nazarene University, Attention Graduate Admissions, 623 S. University Boulevard, Nampa, ID, 83686. For email: [gps@nnu.edu](mailto:gps@nnu.edu). Transcripts can be received through email if sent from an accepted digital credentialing service, such as Parchment or the National Student Clearinghouse.

1. Online: application and \$50 non-refundable application fee.
2. Mail, or email from a digital service: official transcripts from the regionally accredited institution(s) where the candidate received a master's degree. (We do not accept faxed transcripts.)
3. Email or mail: a copy of the candidate's teaching certificate.
4. Email or mail: a copy of the candidate's building administrator's license for the Superintendent's or Exceptional Child Generalist track.
5. Online: two recommendation forms completed by professional colleagues.
6. Online: an Educational Leadership Evaluation Form from the candidate's current building administrator. The online recommendation forms and the online evaluation form must be completed by different individuals.
7. Online: evidence of writing competency, preferably from a research paper or other document completed during master's courses.

## Graduation Requirements - Ed.S. Educational Leadership - Director of Special Education

1. Credits must be earned in courses numbered 7000 or above. Continuing education courses and pass/fail courses (except those specified for degree completion) do not apply toward the degree. Exceptions for substitutions from other institutions may be approved by the program director.

2. Have four (4) years of full-time certificated/licensed experience working with students while under contract in an accredited school setting before degree completion.
3. The candidate must complete requirements as specified in the degree major. The degree must be completed within six years of beginning course work. If the degree is not completed within six years, the candidate must reapply to the program. Credits older than six years may need to be retaken.
4. The candidate must apply for graduation one full semester prior to anticipated degree completion. Deadlines: June 1 for Fall; October 15 for Spring; and January 15 for Summer.

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**Total Credits**

**32-43**