EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP (EDS)

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the Columbus State University Educational Specialist Degree Program in Educational Leadership meet the Educational Program Preparation (EPP) guidelines stated in Georgia Educational Leadership Rule 505-3-.0.

Candidates must:

1. Complete an application for admission to the Graduate School at Columbus State University.
2. Be accepted into the Columbus State University Graduate School.
3. Provide official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate coursework from each school previously attended and have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or better on all graduate course work in fulfillment of the requirements for the latest graduate degree.
4. Provide a statement of purpose. This statement addresses the candidate's reason for pursuing a career in educational leadership and why the Educational Leadership Educational Specialist degree is the right fit to help reach the candidate's goals.
5. Provide two letters of reference. The letters specifically address the candidate's ability to address the demands of high level graduate coursework and make a recommendation for admission to the program.
6. Have proof of clear renewable teaching licensure
7. Have a Master's degree and 3 years of teaching experience and be currently employed in a K-12 district in a leadership role.
8. Hold Tier I entry level certification or hold a valid, GA PSC-issued Standard Professional L or PL certificate in Educational Leadership;
9. Serve in a leadership position at either the P-12 school or LUA level (or agency or organization equivalent to LUA level) that will enable the candidate to fully meet the program's residency requirements.
10. Meet Tier II GA PSC guidelines:
    a. Candidates who do not serve in a leadership position as described above may be enrolled if the EPP and employer establish a formal, written agreement specifying the candidate will be released from other responsibilities for a portion of the school week sufficient in length to allow the candidate to participate in and successfully complete residency performances.
    b. Employees of state education or human service agencies, RESAs, universities or technical colleges, and employees of education or human service non-profit organizations may also pursue Tier II leadership certification as long as the employer has established a partnership with a GA PSC-approved EPP and in the partnership agreement agrees to meet all requirements and guidelines accompanying this rule; and
11. Meet program admission criteria and admission criteria specified in the partnership agreements with employers of enrolled candidates.
    a. All candidates admitted to any GA PSC-approved Educational Leadership program (current program or the new tiered model) on or after July 1, 2016, must complete (do not have to pass) Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry (370) prior to becoming enrolled. A candidate who completes this program entry requirement for Tier I does not have to complete it again for Tier II.
    b. Candidates admitted after July 1, 2016, must submit a copy of a Completion Certificate of having taken the GA Ethics for Educational Leadership Assessment Program entry (370) pre-assessment as a condition of enrollment. This pre-assessment is online. Candidates enroll in this assessment through their MYPSC account at www.gapsc.com (http://www.gapsc.com/).
12. A clear background check. CSU recognizes a combination of a **current** copy of your current state teaching certification **and** verification of current employment by employing superintendent or designee as adequate proof for a background check.
13. Required Ethics Assessment:
    a. All candidates admitted to any GaPSC-approved Educational Leadership program (current program or the new tiered model) on or after July 1, 2016, must complete (do not have to pass) Georgia Ethics for Educational Leadership – Program Entry (370) prior to becoming enrolled. A candidate who completes this program entry requirement for Tier I does not have to complete it again for Tier II.
    b. Candidates admitted after July 1, 2016, must submit a copy of a Completion Certificate of having taken the GA Ethics for Educational Leadership Assessment Program entry (370) or documentation of passing the new GACE Ethics of Leaders assessment. This preassessment is online.

Additional Program Requirements

These requirements must be met for the completion of the Ed.S. degree:

- Students must earn a 3.0 GPA calculated on all graduate work attempted. "Academic Forgiveness" policy does not apply to graduate studies.
- Students cannot graduate with a grade of "C" or below in more than two (2) graduate courses without an appeal to the College of Education and Health Professions Graduate Council.
- A minimum of 24 semester hours required for the degree must be earned in residence (75%). Asynchronous (online) and distance learning courses administered through Columbus State University constitute courses taken in residence.
- Each candidate must accumulate a total of 750 internship hours earned while in residency.
- Students will need to take and pass the Educational Leadership Tier II GACE Assessment offered through the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

A maximum of six (6) semester graduate level hours of transfer credit or courses taken at CSU prior to full admission to a specialist degree program may be applied toward the degree. Courses with earned grades of "C" or below are not accepted. These transfer courses must be approved by the major advisor and department chair; the courses must meet the seven (7) recency of study requirement.