Ed. S. and Performance-Based Certification

(1) Program Overview

The Performance-Based Leadership Program is designed primarily for candidates who currently possess a leadership position. Candidates may earn an Educational Specialist Degree along with their certification, or they may add certification-only to an existing specialist or doctoral degree.

Admission requirements and restrictions are listed below, but essentially candidates cannot select this program unless they meet the Ga PSC requirements and restrictions.

Candidates will identify a practicing leader who is actively employed in a leadership position in a P-12 school to serve as a mentor. The current program is offered until Spring of 2017, at which time it will be replaced with a Tier 2 Certification Program.

(2) What is the method of delivering the curriculum?

The Performance-Based Leadership Certification and Ed. S is an almost entirely online program. There are three lab classes (EDLE 8301, 8302, & 8303), however, which meet approximately two times per semester on selected Saturday's. All other courses are entirely online. Candidates complete the lab experience as a part of a cohort, however the timing of when to take the other classes is selected by the candidate.

For the most part, courses may be taken in any order; however candidates who are required to complete the two Ga PSC pre-service courses are expected to take those two courses first. (Candidates without a K-12 leadership degree must take the two Ga PSC required pre-service courses for certification). EDLE 8301, 8302, and 8303 are taken in three consecutive semesters.

(3) What are the required courses?

Candidates who do not possess a K-12 leadership degree are required to complete the two Ga PSC pre-service courses listed on the program sheet. Click to access the program sheets for certification-only and degree seeking.

(4) What courses will be offered each semester?

Tentative course offerings through fall of 2017.

(5) What is the normal course load?

Program faculty assume that our candidates are responsible adults. Therefore, we allow latitude in decision-making in regard to how many courses a candidate can successfully complete each semester. Typically, however, candidates take two courses per semester. It is possible to take either one course or three courses per semester. History suggests that some candidates struggle taking three courses if they don't prioritize changes in their lives to ensure that they can meet their responsibilities. Program faculty strongly prefer that candidates are deliberate and thoughtful and gain maximum benefit from the program, rather than trying to get through the courses as quickly as possible.
(6) What if I change jobs during the program?

Changing jobs during the program can be problematic. To be certified, you must be working in a district that has established a partnership with UWG and your system must support your participation in the program. Please consider this requirement before switching districts while you are enrolled in the UWG program. You are responsible to let your adviser know if you change districts or positions during your time in the program.

(7) What is the cost of the program?

Please check the bursar's office for this information. It is available at this link

(8) What are the GACE requirements?

Candidates in the Performance-Based Programs granted access to take GACE after they have completed EDLE 8302. Candidates cannot receive Georgia the certification unless they receive a passing score on the GACE.

Ms. Kathy Jones is the University certification officer. She can answer general questions about GACE and certification for candidates. Please email her at kjones@westga.edu

(9) When do I apply for graduation?

Not all courses are offered each semester, so candidates should pay attention to the future projection of course offerings (see item # 4) to ensure a timely graduation. Candidates need to apply for graduation many months in advance. This process only applies to degree-seeking candidates.

Candidates should find the information regarding applying for graduation on the Registrar's website. Here is the link

(10) Are scholarships available?

There are four scholarship opportunities that are available specifically for educational leadership candidates. With our many fine candidates, this is a competitive process. Typically, candidates apply for scholarships in the fall and they are awarded in the winter or early spring. Information will be available at appropriate times. Normally, interested students will complete an online application through TK 20 in the fall and a college committee selects the award winners.

(11) What is TK 20?

TK 20 is an instructional resource that is required for all educational leadership candidates (and all students in the College of Education). It is purchased one-time and is similar to other required textbooks. TK 20 allows university program faculty to analyze program data and to make improvements in a manner that leads to national accreditation (CAEP) and accreditation with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Within this program, candidates will complete approximately eight key assessments that are embedded in courses and aligned to Georgia Leadership Standards. These key assessments will be loaded by candidates into TK 20. They will be scored and analyzed in the TK 20 platform. This process provides a data-driven basis for the program to be reviewed and approved by outside accrediting agencies and for use by program faculty to improve the program. Candidate work submitted in TK 20 will demonstrate proficiency with Georgia Leadership Standards. Program faculty cannot recommend students for graduation and certification until the student's TK 20 work is complete and satisfactory.

Click here for more information regarding TK 20.
(12) Are transfer of credits or course substitutions considered?

Our leadership programs have eliminated all elective courses. The result is that the remaining courses are each tied to important Georgia Leadership Standards. The program has been carefully developed so that candidates are able to develop the knowledge skills and proficiencies necessary as laid out by national and Georgia Leadership Standards. Consequently, beginning with the spring semester of 2016, no course transfers or substitutions will be considered.

(13) What is the current Georgia Leadership Rule?

Candidates should check the Georgia Professional Standards Commission website to maintain knowledge of the current leadership rule. Here is the link to their website.

(14) What are the requirements for admissions consideration?

To be considered for admission to the Performance-Based Leadership Program, requirements include: a master's degree or higher from an accredited institution, a 3.0 graduate GPA, the candidate must be in leadership position or role, a signed system approval form, a written partnership between the school system and UWG, proof of meeting the Georgia exceptional children requirement, and a completed application for admission. Apply here

Please direct all application questions to the Office of Graduate and International Admissions (678-839-1394) graduate@westga.edu

(15) Who are your partner districts?

Candidates are eligible to apply if there is a written partnership between their employing school district and the University of West Georgia. The list of school districts with whom West Georgia has a partnership is included here

(16) Who is the certification official for UWG?

Ms. Kathy Jones is available to assist candidates with certification issues and questions. Please email her at kjones@westga.edu

(17) Who are the program faculty?

From time to time, adjunct faculty not listed below are used. Permanent, full-time faculty are listed below.

Myrna Gantner
Robert Heaberlin
Dianne Hoff
Mary Hooper
Christie Johnson
Andy Nixon
Robert Voelkel
(18) **Registration process**

Please check the registrar's website for tutorials regarding registering for classes. The timelines for registration are also available on the registrar's website.

(19) **Course Login and Online Technical Assistance**

Since much of the program is delivered entirely online, it is important for candidates to be aware of help and support for online learning that is available here.

(20) **Where do I receive official communication from the University?**

Your UWG email address is the official vehicle to receive important information from the university. Payment of fees, cancellation of classes due to inclement weather are just some of the types of information that might be relayed via campus email.

(21) **Financial Aid**

Each of the leadership programs at the University of West Georgia are eligible for financial aid. However, each candidate's financial situation must be assessed by the financial aid department to determine actual individual eligibility. Typically, the candidate must register for at least five credit hours to receive financial aid. If candidates are interested in financial aid, they need to request that their advisor submit their program sheet to the financial aid office.

(22) **Immunization**

Because the state of Georgia requires the implementation of an immunization policy, candidates should be aware of the need to document proper immunization. Because candidates have a few face-to-face meetings, Educational Leadership candidates must follow the policy. Find more information here.

(23) **Where do I go to receive assistance or to have my questions answered?**

Prior to taking EDLE 8301, the program coordinator serves as an advisor about the courses and general expectations for the program. The candidate's professor for EDLE 8301 assumes primary advising responsibilities for the remainder of the program.

Candidates who have questions about admissions and their application status should contact the Graduate Admissions Office at 678-839-1394 or by emailing at graduate@westga.edu.

Often times, the program assistant, Ms. Barry, can help candidates with registration questions or other types of logistical issues.

Certification and GACE questions should be directed to Kathy Jones (kjones@westga.edu).

The college is organized with several departments, led by a Department Chair who acts as the supervisor of the program faculty. Therefore, questions about resources, concerns about faculty members, and other supervisory issues should be brought to the attention of the Department Chair. The current Department Chair is Dr. Brian Mosier.

(24) **Where do I apply?**

Apply here.