Ed. S. and Tier 2 Certification

(1) Program Overview

The Tier 2 Leadership Program is an advanced leadership program reserved for candidates in leadership positions as defined by the Ga PSC. For admission, candidates must already possess initial leadership certification. Candidates may earn an Educational Specialist Degree along with their certification, or they may add certification-only to an existing specialist or doctoral degree.

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

The Tier 2 Leadership Certification and Ed. S Degree is an entirely online program. There are three lab classes (EDLE 8301, 8302, & 8303, which meet approximately three times per semester synchronously. 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.

Courses may be taken in any order, with the exception that EDLE 8301, 8302, and 8303 are taken in three consecutive semesters.

(3) What are the required courses?

Click to access the program sheets for certification-only and degree seeking.

(4) What courses will be offered each semester?

Tentative course offering schedule.

(5) What is the normal course load?

We allow latitude in decision-making in regard to how many courses a candidate can successfully complete each semester. Typically 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 Office of Student Accounts and Billing Services for this information. It is available at this link.
(8) **What are the GACE requirements?**

Candidates in the Tier 2 programs are granted access to take PASL after they have successfully completed EDLE 8302. Candidates cannot earn Georgia certification unless they receive a passing score on the PASL.

(9) **What are the grade requirements for program completion?**

The lowest grade a candidate can earn for a course to count towards certification is a C. A GPA of 3.0 or higher must be achieved by the end of the program in order to be recommended for certification.

(10) **When do I apply for graduation?**

Not all courses are offered each semester, so candidates must pay attention to the future projection of course offerings (see item # 4) to ensure a timely graduation. Candidates need to apply for graduation several months in advance.

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

(11) **Are scholarships available?**

There are four scholarships available for students in the Educational Leadership program from the COE. The selection process is highly competitive as there are a number of qualified candidates. Students can be considered for these scholarships and more by applying via the UWG scholarship portal. Applications are typically due late January and recipients will be notified before the closing of the spring semester. Scholarships awarded are for the following fall semester. Information will be provided to students via their UWG email address.

(12) **Are transfer of credits or course substitutions considered?**

No. All program courses are 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, no course transfers or substitutions will be considered.

(13) **What are the requirements for admissions consideration?**

To be considered for admission to the Tier 2 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, have a Tier 1, L, or PL certificate, a signed system approval form, a written partnership between the school system and UWG, and a completed application for admission. Apply here

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

(14) **Who are your partner districts?**

A written partnership between the candidate's employing school district and the University of West Georgia is required. The list of school districts with whom West Georgia has a partnership is included here
(15) 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

(16) Who are the program faculty?

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

- Clifford Davis
- Georgia Evans
- Myrna Gantner
- Dianne Hoff
- Laurie Kimbrel
- Jean Ruffin
- Andy Nixon
- Gary Storie

(17) 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.

(18) 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

(19) 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.

(20) Financial Aid

The Ed.S. and Certification only in 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. Applications must be completed several weeks before the initiation of the semester to allow for processing in the financial aid office.
(21) Where do I receive assistance or 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.

Often times, the program assistant, Ms. Fincham, 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 Interim Department Chair is Dr. Mary Alice Varga.