The Executive Leadership Program requires 15 credits of coursework, including a two-semester internship/practicum offered in partnership with the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. For additional details, please visit executive.education.uconn.edu.

EDLR 6301: School District Executive Leadership – 3 Credits

EDLR 6302: Data-Driven Decision Making for School Improvement and Policy – 3 Credits

EDLR 6303: School District Policy, Politics and Governance – 3 Credits

EDLR 6304: Financial and Human Resources Management in Education – 3 Credits

EDLR 6092: Internship/Practicum – 3 Credits (full-year internship with an experienced superintendent, provided in partnership with CAPSS)

Preparing Superintendents and School District Leaders for the 21st Century

University of Connecticut
Neag School of Education
249 Glenbrook Road, Unit 3093
Storrs, CT 06269-3093

For more information, including program timeline, a list of faculty, and more, visit executive.education.uconn.edu.

Questions? Connect with us today.

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The Neag School of Education’s Executive Leadership Program is highly regarded throughout Connecticut. Education leaders have complex jobs, and this exemplary program prepares leaders to be ready to meet the many challenges that they will encounter. Research and practice are presented by highly experienced and knowledgeable instructors in a winning combination. The graduates of the program are sought-out for executive positions throughout the state.

— Frances Babcock, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents

Preparing Superintendents for the 21st Century

The Neag School of Education’s Executive Leadership Program prepared me for the complex work of effecting system-wide improvement from the seat of a central office position in a school district. Every district leader needs a framework to align key actions that focuses on our ultimate goal of improving learning for all students. The program, through its integration of academics and practical experiences, provided me with just that – a framework that I use today that helps me to identify the key elements and their coherent relationship that will bring about district-wide improvement.

— Anne Cudia Leonard ’07 ELP, ’13 Ed.D., Superintendent, Milford Public Schools

The Executive Leadership Program’s intentional blend of theory and practice has prepared me to meet the complex demands of a 21st-century organization. My facilitators elicited high-level group discussions that prompted deep reflection and learning that informs my leadership practices as a superintendent. Executive leadership is challenging and adaptive; however, the ELP course content and internship provided a framework that reinforces the importance of continuous improvement within a learning organization.

— Michael Conner ’14 ELP, Superintendent, Middletown Public Schools
Whether you aspire to serve as a school superintendent or in another capacity as a school district leader, the Executive Leadership Program (ELP) at UConn’s Neag School of Education offers a comprehensive, one-year program.

This program is specifically designed to prepare district leaders who have served successfully as the lead administrator for four or more years in a position that requires Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certification (092), such as a principal or central office leader.

ELP graduates earn endorsement for Connecticut Superintendent Certification (093) while gaining the knowledge necessary for successfully meeting the challenges of district leadership in the 21st century.

Each ELP participant is placed with an experienced Connecticut superintendent for a two-semester practicum offered in partnership with Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS).

Program Goals

1. Provide prospective superintendents with the background, knowledge, and practical skills needed to address problems of practice associated with school district leadership in the 21st century.

2. Integrate coursework with structured clinical experiences that prepares participants to demonstrate mastery of the Connecticut School Leadership Standards.

3. Offer a UConn institutional endorsement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certification (093).

Why Choose ELP?

• Comprehensive, practical coursework. In only 13 months, complete five three-credit courses — including an internship with an experienced Connecticut superintendent — as part of a cohort. Each course is delivered through a balance of academic and practitioner perspectives, and emphasizes applied theory as well as case studies around authentic district leadership problems of practice.

• Superintendent internship. A key component of the program is a two-semester internship or clinical practicum in district leadership. Participants are paired with an experienced superintendent mentor. The internship is offered in partnership with CAPSS.

• Expert mentors. University and clinical faculty serve as ELP instructors, while experienced superintendents and state policymakers play an active role in the Best Practices in District Leadership seminar series.

• Attention to special education. Coursework in special education — a requirement for the Connecticut Superintendent Certificate (093) — is incorporated throughout the program.

• 092 Certification. Participants can expect to attain Connecticut Superintendent Certification (093) upon satisfactory completion of this program.

• Central location. All ELP sessions are held in the greater Hartford, Conn., area, most often on-site in a partner school district.

• Pathway from ELP to Ed.D. For interested ELP graduates, the Educational Leadership Department has created a pathway from ELP to Ed.D. Credits will apply for accepted participants.

What Does It Take to Qualify for ELP?

TO QUALIFY AS AN ELP APPLICANT, YOU MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

• A strong academic record, including a master’s degree and a minimum of 15 appropriately related graduate credits beyond master’s level

• An established record of successful educational leadership experience and a demonstrated ability to sustain positive professional relationships

• Demonstrated capacity to lead a school or district to improve student learning opportunities over time

• Professional references that address your potential for effective district-level leadership

• Service in a leadership position that requires the Connecticut Intermediate Administrator Certification (092), or its equivalent, for at least four school years

What Are the Application Deadlines?

Application period: March 1 – April 15
Interviews scheduled: May 1 – May 15
Acceptance letters sent on or before May 31.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

• Applicants must submit the following by April 15:
  • Executive Leadership Program application, available at executive.education.uconn.edu
  • College and graduate school transcripts
  • Personal statement regarding your professional aspirations related to school district leadership and prior experiences in educational leadership
  • Two written recommendations that attest to your educational leadership experiences and that describe how your education and/or professional experiences have successfully prepared you to meet the requirements of the Executive Leadership Program and a district leadership position

• A 30- to 45-minute admissions interview for select qualified candidates

Please visit executive.education.uconn.edu for further details regarding admissions criteria and application procedures.

Location: All class sessions will be held at the UConn Hartford building or the CAPSS Office in West Hartford.