If you already have a master’s degree and would like to extend your work in education to an administrative or policy-making level, the University of Northern Colorado’s Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership can help you achieve your career goals.

You will learn about:

- Leadership roles and responsibilities
- Policy development and change
- Implementation of professional development for teachers
- School finance and budgeting
- Contemporary issues in education
- Reforming school programs and increasing student achievement

Nationally ranked in recent years by U.S. News and World Report, UNC’s Educational Leadership program has trained hundreds of school administrators who lead educational institutions across the country. Through a flexible course schedule with evening, weekend and summer classes designed for working professionals, you will gain knowledge about leadership at the K-12 level, community college, higher education and other educational settings.

A majority of the hours included in the Educational Specialist program can be transferred into a doctoral program. If you are considering pursuing your terminal doctoral degree in the future, this allows you to obtain your license, an advanced degree beyond a master’s and coursework credits that you can use in the future toward a doctorate.

This degree requires students to complete 30 credits beyond a master’s degree, with a comprehensive exam at the end of the program. Most students complete these requirements in one-and-a-half years.

Principal and Administrator Non-Degree Licensures

You may pursue an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership while working concurrently on a principal or administrator license. The educational specialist degree requires only one research course in addition to the licensure coursework.

“The program has been wonderful for me because it’s given me the opportunity to collaboratively learn with a small cohort group of colleagues working in my field. The structure of my classes has been highly engaging, experiential and inquiry based. The learning has been tremendous. By far this is one of the best professional learning opportunities I’ve ever had.”

— Martin Pearson, Principal of Otho E. Stuart Middle School
The Graduate School

The Graduate School at the University of Northern Colorado helps you further your academic or professional career with small class sizes, top-notch faculty, sophisticated facilities and affordable tuition in 100-plus programs of study.

We offer master’s, doctoral and educational specialist programs in addition to many certificate programs available through on-campus, off-campus and online delivery.

How to Get Started

More information online
www.unco.edu/grad/inquire

Contact the Educational Leadership Program
Graduate Coordinator
Linda Vogel
linda.vogel@unco.edu
970-351-2119

Graduate School Admissions
www.unco.edu/grad
970-351-2831
grad.school@unco.edu

Unique facts

• Most courses are taught by full-time professors who collectively have more than 30 years of experience as K-12 administrators ranging from principal to assistant superintendent.

• Faculty have experience and expertise in issues facing education today, including performance-based salaries, anti-bullying programs, K-12/university partnerships, school restructuring, minority recruitment and the value of online instruction.