EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP (CAGS)

The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Educational Leadership is a post-master’s degree program designed for professionals in education, or a related field, who have completed a master’s degree and are interested in pursuing advanced-level graduate studies. Students choose a CAGS degree based on their individual interests and goals. Some students pursue a CAGS to obtain certification in:

- Curriculum Administration, K–12 certification
- Curriculum Administration, non-certification
- School Principal, K–12 certification
- Special Education Administrator, K–12 certification
- Superintendent of Schools, K–12 certification
- Education Leadership, no concentration

Students must earn 33 credits to complete a CAGS degree. Each CAGS program requires core CAGS courses, additional coursework determined by the major concentration focus, and a capstone course.

In many universities, a CAGS, or similar post master’s degree program (e.g. Certificate of Advanced Studies, CAS; Educational Specialist, EdS) is a prerequisite for doctoral studies. In many cases a number of post-master’s course credits can be transferred into the Plymouth State University EdD program. A number of other NH institutions allow students to transfer credits from their post master’s degree programs into a doctoral program as well.

Degree Requirements

Curriculum Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>EP 7080</td>
<td>Ethical Leadership and Decision Making</td>
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</table>

Specialization Component

Credits approved by advisor 12-18

Capstone Experience

Complete one of the following: 3-6

- EP 7850 CAGS Capstone
- EP 7910 Independent Study
- EP 7560 Special Topics in Educational Leadership

Total Credits 33-39

Optional Concentrations in this Major

Curriculum Administrator, K–12 Specialist Certification

Program Coordinator: Linda Carrier, EdD
E-mail: llcarrier@plymouth.edu

The K–12 Curriculum Administrator concentration is designed for instructional leaders who direct the curriculum, instruction, and assessment activities of a school, school district or administrative unit.

The program of study addresses the role of the curriculum administrator as a district leader who is charged with the responsibilities of planning, implementing, and evaluating educational programs that are relevant and responsive to the needs of learners.

Coursework addresses the competencies required of the curriculum administrator as collaborative leader, decision-maker, consultant, and specialist in advising administrators, teachers, the community, and other professional personnel on the research and best practices in curriculum development, instruction, and assessment of student learning.

Candidates for the Curriculum Administrator program must have at least three years of experience as a K–12 educator and hold at least a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, or in education, with additional coursework in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Candidates will participate in coursework and field experiences and construct a portfolio based on the standards for certification to demonstrate their skills, competencies, and knowledge before completing the program for certification endorsement.

Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). Teacher candidates can find the latest NHDOE standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm.

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Curriculum Administration Component

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 5020</td>
<td>Staff Development &amp; Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>AD 5300</td>
<td>Managing Educational Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>EP 7210</td>
<td>Leading Curriculum and Instruction to Transform Schools</td>
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Capstone Experience

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<tr>
<td>EP 7830</td>
<td>Practicum: K-12 Curriculum Administrator 1</td>
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</table>

Total Credits 33

1 To be eligible for certification, students must successfully complete Practicum: K-12 Curriculum Administrator (EP 7830). Those who instead complete CAGS Capstone (EP 7850) and an additional elective (three credits) will graduate without certification eligibility.

Curriculum Administrator, K–12 Specialist Certification Only

All candidates must have at least three years of teaching experience. Additional information regarding credits for the Certification only options can be found at Certification Programs, Educator and Specialist – Advanced Degrees (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/)
Curriculum Requirements
Course Title Credits
Curriculum Administrator Component (in suggested order)
AD 5700 School Law 3
or SE 5300 Special Education Law 3
AD 5020 Staff Development & Evaluation 3
AD 5300 Managing Educational Resources 3
EP 7210 Leading Curriculum and Instruction to Transform Schools 3
EP 7830 Practicum: K-12 Curriculum Administrator 6
Total Credits 18

School Principal, K–12 Certification
Program Coordinator: Chris Benedetti, PhD
E-mail: cjbenedetti@plymouth.edu

Educators who wish to explore the possibilities of school building leadership will find Plymouth State University's School Principal K-12 certification programs rich in opportunities for collaboration, research, and practical experience. From curriculum development and assessment to school law, school budgets, and community partnerships, candidates will master the knowledge, skills, and understandings they need to successfully practice effective leadership in their learning organizations.

Candidates must possess a master's degree in order to apply for admission to the CAGS program.

Graduates of this degree program who possess at least five years of K–12 teaching experience are eligible for certification as a school principal in the state of New Hampshire. Reciprocity through interstate compacts may extend this certification to additional states.

Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). Teacher candidates can find the latest NHDOE standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm (http://education.nh.gov/).

Curriculum Requirements
Course Title Credits
CAGS Core Component
EP 7020 Collaborative Leadership 3
EP 7030 Transforming the Educational Agenda 3
EP 7040 Planning in Education and Human Services 3
EP 7050 Advanced Mixed Research Methodology 3
EP 7060 Legal Issues in Policy Making 3
EP 7080 Ethical Leadership and Decision Making 3
School Principal Component
AD 5020 Staff Development & Evaluation 3
AD 5300 Managing Educational Resources 3
AD 5330 Leadership in Curriculum Development and Assessment 3
Capstone Experience
AD 5800 Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Principalship 6
Total Credits 33

Special Education Administration, K–12 Certification
Program Coordinator: Marcel Lebrun, PhD
E-mail: mrlebrun@plymouth.edu

Candidates in the Special Education Administration concentration must have a minimum of five years teaching experience and possess certification in General Special Education K–12.

Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). Teacher candidates can find the latest NHDOE standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm (http://education.nh.gov/).

Curriculum Requirements
Course Title Credits
Educational Leadership Component
EP 7020 Collaborative Leadership 3
EP 7030 Transforming the Educational Agenda 3
EP 7040 Planning in Education and Human Services 3
EP 7050 Advanced Mixed Research Methodology 3
EP 7080 Ethical Leadership and Decision Making 3
Special Education Administration Component
AD 5020 Staff Development & Evaluation 3
AD 5300 Managing Educational Resources 3
SE 5564 Multi-Tiered System of Supports: Comprehensive and Intensive Interventions 3
ED 5060 Theories of Learning and Cognitive Development 3
SE 5760 Collaboration, Consultation and Leadership in Special Education 3
SE 6040 Curriculum Development in Special Education 3
EP 7060 Legal Issues in Policy Making 3
Capstone Experience
SE 7800 Special Educational Leadership Practicum 3
Total Credits 39

Superintendent of Schools, K–12 Certification
Program Coordinator: Linda L. Carrier, EdD
E-mail: licarrier@plymouth.edu

The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Educational Leadership with a Superintendent of Schools K–12 certification concentration provides educators with the knowledge, skills, and understandings they need to successfully practice effective leadership in a school system or systems. This program offers educational leaders an opportunity to collaborate with, explore, and gain practical experiences from school district level leaders.

The school superintendent program is focused on the specialized leadership work conducted by school system leaders. This work is summarized in eight major areas of responsibility: general leadership; curriculum and instruction; personnel management; finance; student services; communications and community relations; technology and maintenance; and capital improvement. Students that have matriculated into the superintendent program may be eligible to earn course competency through a portfolio assessment. Students interested in pursuing the portfolio assessment option should contact Dr. Carrier for more information.
Candidates must possess a master’s degree in order to apply for admission to the CAGS program and have completed at least three years as an education administrator in a K–12 setting.

Requirements for certification may change, subject to changes made by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). Teacher candidates can find the latest NHDOE standards at education.nh.gov/index.htm (http://education.nh.gov/).

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**Superintendent Component**

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<td>EP 7100</td>
<td>School Labor Relations, Negotiations and Personnel Management</td>
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<td>EP 7200</td>
<td>School Buildings and Transportation</td>
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<td>The Superintendency and School District Leadership</td>
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**Capstone Experience**

Complete one of the following:

- EP 7800 Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency 1
- EP 7850 CAGS Capstone (and EP 7xxx Elective)

Total Credits: 33-36

1 To be eligible for certification, students must successfully complete Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency (EP 7800). Those who instead complete CAGS Capstone (EP 7850) and an additional elective (three credits) will graduate without certification eligibility.

(Students in this option will not receive certification endorsement)

**Superintendent of Schools, K–12 Specialist Certification Only**

Students must have completed at least three years of experience as an education administrator in a K–12 setting. Additional information regarding credits for the Certification only options can be found at Certification Programs, Educator and Specialist – Advanced Degrees (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/holmes-center-school-partnerships-educator-preparation/) on the Holmes Center for School Partnerships and Educator Preparation.

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**Capstone Experience**

- EP 7800 Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency

Total Credits: 21

1 To be eligible for certification, students must successfully complete Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency (EP 7800). Those who instead complete CAGS Capstone (EP 7850) and an additional elective (three credits) will graduate without certification eligibility.

**Dual Certification: Education Leadership, Superintendent of Schools K–12 and Curriculum Administrator K–12**

The CAGS in Educational Leadership with dual concentrations in Superintendent of Schools K–12 and Curriculum Administrator K–12 certifications provide future district leaders with the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to effectively practice school district leadership. This program offers candidates the opportunity to collaborate with, and gain practical experiences from school district leaders.

This dual certification option is focused on the specialized leadership work conducted by district level leaders. In addition to the strong focus on the leadership of school districts, the Superintendent/Curriculum Administrator program provides educational leaders the opportunity to examine deeply the issue of curriculum leadership in schools in the 21st century.

Candidates must possess a master’s degree in order to apply to the CAGS program and must have completed at least three years as an education administrator in a K–12 setting.

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**Capstone Experience**

- EP 7800 Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency

Total Credits: 21

1 To be eligible for certification, students must successfully complete Practicum in Educational Leadership: The Superintendency (EP 7800). Those who instead complete CAGS Capstone (EP 7850) and an additional elective (three credits) will graduate without certification eligibility.
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