

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: Western Kentucky University

Program Name: Instructional Leadership, School Principal, All Grades

Degree Designation: MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (MAED)

Degree Level : Master's

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Education, Instructional Leadership, School Principal, All Grades program will include 30 credit hours and lead to Provisional certification to serve as a school principal or assistant principal.

The MAE degree in principal certification will include the same coursework as the Rank I and certification only pathways currently approved under programs 131 and 121 at Western Kentucky University and simply creates a third pathway to the principalship besides Rank I and certification only. This returns the university to the same menu of principal pathways that existed prior to the 2013 statewide revision of principal certification programs.

Will this program replace or enhance any existing programs(s) or tracks, concentrations, or specializations within an existing program? If yes, please specify

This program enhances the existing certification only and Rank I tracks to the principalship by providing an additional pathway, and will likely increase enrollments in the program overall.

CIP Code: 13.0401

Credit Hours: 30

Institutional Board Approval Date: 5/1/2020

Implementation Date: 8/3/2020

Student Demand

Year 1 - 5
Year 2 - 10
Year 3 - 15
Year 4 - 15
Year 5 - 15

Market Demand

Following the decision of the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board in December 2018 to waive the existing requirement of a Master's degree prior to admission in a principal preparation program (a move that WKU faculty supported), we are requesting approval to initiate a proposal for a new Master's of Arts in Education (MAE) pathway to principal certification. This will create three pathways to principal certification at WKU, including the MAE, Rank I, and certification only. The MAE option will be ideal for teachers who are relatively new in the profession and aspire to an

extended career in school administration. By earning principal certification at the Master’s level, these students will be well-position to pursue other advanced credentials in administration, including supervisor of instruction, director of pupil personnel, and superintendent certification at the Rank I level and beyond.

The MAE degree in principal certification will include the same coursework as the Rank I and certification only pathways currently approved under programs 131 and 121 at Western Kentucky University. It will include 30 credit hours of coursework in education administration, including 24 credit hours of traditional classes and 6 credit hours of clinical experiences. The curriculum, sequence, and structure of these courses and clinical work all reflect program revisions recently made with the support of a grant from the Wallace Foundation designed to promote model principal training for the 21st century, a grant for which WKU was one of 7 universities across the United States to participate, bringing us into close partnership with districts, the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Kentucky Education Professionals Standards Board.

Employment Demand

	Regional	State	National
Type Of Job	Principal	Principal	Principal
Avg. Wage	\$79K-88K	\$87,420	\$95,310
# Jobs (Postings)		320/yr	22,200/yr
Expected Growth		+5.6%	+7.9%

Indicate source of market demand information

Data in the table above come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Handbook.

Academic Demand

Since 2013 when WKU was no longer allowed to admit students to the principal program without a Master’s degree already earned, we have received numerous inquiries from prospective students seeking to earn principal certification at the Master’s level. While we anticipate WKU’s education administration program will continue to appeal to students at the Rank I and certification only level, this pathway will be attractive to students who are perhaps less seasoned in their teaching careers but eager to enter an administrative role and perhaps earn other advanced certifications at the Rank I level, including supervisor of instruction, director of pupil personnel, director of special education, and superintendent.

Again, this program will be identical in terms of coursework and learning objectives from the existing Rank I/certification only principal program. Students will be assessed throughout their program on progress toward mastery of the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL).

Unnecessary Duplication

Similar Program(s):

Program Id	Inst code	Inst Description	Degree Designation	Program Title	Report year
10604	00196300	Eastern Kentucky University	MAED	Instructional Leadership	2015
3142	00198900	University of Kentucky	MED	Educational Leadership	2015

Comparison of Objectives/Focus/Curriculum to Similar Programs:

The proposed program is identical to WKU's existing certification and Rank I pathways for principal certification. Similar programs for certification only and Rank I exist at all of Kentucky's regional universities and two research-focused institutions in order to meet regional needs for highly-trained and certified school principals. To our knowledge, only Murray State University is currently offering a Master's degree pathway to the principalship, but with the waiver described above, we anticipate many other programs will reinstitute Master's degree options for principal certification.

Cost

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$) : 821700

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$) : 0

Will Additional faculty be needed? Yes

As this proposal just creates an additional pathway to principal certification using the existing program, no additional faculty are needed.

Provide a budgetary rationale for creating this new program

No additional funding will be required to offer a Master's degree pathway to principal certification as the program utilizes the same course work and requirements as the existing Rank I and certification only pathways. Creating an additional pathway to principal certification will likely grow enrollments in WKU's principal program with no additional costs, and therefore represents a highly efficient and effective use of existing funds and resources. No other programs will be affected.