

# SUPERINTENDENT CERTIFICATION

## Program Description

School of Education Graduate Faculty (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/graduate-faculty-staff/>)

School of Education Graduate Programs Website (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/>)

The Superintendent Certification program (<http://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/certification-programs/superintendent/>) is based on the National Educational Preparation (NELP) standards and emphasizes the knowledge and skills appropriate to district-level administrative assignments in the P–12 setting such as superintendent, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent, directors, and other similar roles.

The program will equip graduates to:

- Develop and implement a vision for learning that is supported by school and community stakeholders.
- Sustain a coherent professional development and instructional program conducive to student learning.
- Effectively manage the organization and resources for a safe and effective learning environment.
- Collaborate with families and community members to mobilize resources in responding to diverse community interests and needs.
- Act with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical manner.
- Understand and appropriately respond to the political, social, and cultural dynamics of a school district.

When students possess the necessary prerequisite requirements and successfully complete this program, they will qualify for the Washington state Initial School Superintendent's Certificate.

The Superintendent Certification program fulfills in part the specialization requirement for the Doctor of Education degree (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/doctoral-programs/doctor-of-education-edd/>) (EdD) at Seattle Pacific University.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following items to the Graduate Admissions (<http://spu.edu/graduate/>):

- Online application (<http://admissions.spu.edu/apply/>) and \$50 application processing fee.
- Copy of current teaching certificate, front and back.
- Copy of at least one of the following valid OSPI-issued certificates: Residency Teacher, Educational Staff Associate, Administrator, or Initial/Continuing CTE certificate, front and back.
- Official transcript(s) from each college/university attended.
  - If your degree is not from a U.S. college or university, please arrange for your transcript to be evaluated by a NACES member (<http://www.naces.org/>)-recognized credential service. Acceptable credential services include, but are not limited to, World Education Services (<http://www.wes.org/>) (WES) and Foundation for International Services (<http://www.fis-web.com/>) (FIS).

- Personal statement (1–2 pages).
- Résumé.
- Two letters of recommendation (one supervisory, one professional).
- Site Agreement form, available in the online application (<http://admissions.spu.edu/apply/>).

## Contact

If you have questions about graduate education or certification programs:

- Email: [gradadmissions@spu.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@spu.edu)
- Phone: 206-281-2091

## Program Design

The program consists of a core sequence of six 3-credit courses offered over a two-year period and an internship consisting of at least 360 hours of field experience for the superintendent certificate.

Your core classes meet three times per quarter in a Friday-afternoon/ Saturday-morning format. Readings and case studies are assigned in advance to maximize the amount of time for discussion, dialogue, and reflection.

This program has several key components:

- Team building.
  - You go through the six-course sequence as a cohort. Monthly meetings with these same individuals also provide opportunities for networking and team building.
- Weekend coursework.
  - Classes meet three times per quarter, Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. You are involved in selecting topics and planning the activities.
  - Monthly sessions include:
    - Review of in-district internship work.
    - Discussion of case studies.
    - Best-practice presentations by current practitioners.
- Field experience.
  - Field experience is an integral part of the coursework and takes place over the same two-year period as the coursework.
  - The goal of the superintendency internship is to develop the hands-on experience and skill needed to increase student learning through district-level leadership.
  - The major focus of the internship is a meaningful district- or school-level project that will contribute to making a difference in improving the district/school, as well as address the portfolio criteria for the internship.
  - In addition, shadowing, teamwork, and reflection are part of the internship process.

One of the core themes of the superintendent certification program is to develop an understanding of self as a leader who is focused on student learning. In part, this is obtained through the reflective dialogue of the seminars, completion of the Pole 360 feedback instrument, and the development of your professional growth plan.

## Superintendent Certification

24 Credits Minimum

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Program Courses</b>		
EDAD 7581	Systems Leadership	3
EDAD 7582	Education Law and Policy Studies	3
EDAD 7583	Leading Diverse Communities	3
EDAD 7584	Resource Management	3
EDAD 7586	Interpersonal Relations	3
EDAD 7588	Improving Student Learning	3
Section Credits Required		18
<b>Field Experience</b>		
EDAD 7890	Executive Leadership Field Experience <sup>1</sup>	6
Section Credits Required		6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>24</b>

<sup>1</sup> Take one credit per quarter