The Department of Educational Leadership provides opportunities for educators to earn advanced degrees and certifications. It offers an Educational Leadership program that includes a master’s degree in school administration, special education administration and curriculum administration, as well as a post-master’s Certificate of Advanced Study. It also offers a Certificate of Graduate Study in the areas of assistant principal and athletic administration. The Professional Educator program offers a master’s degree for educators who want to deepen their practices as classroom teachers, explore individual interests, and expand their professional horizons as teacher leaders.

### Program Highlights

**Educational Leadership**
- Career Options: Maine certification may be earned through the Educational Leadership program in the following areas:
  - Assistant Principal
  - Building Administrator
  - Curriculum Coordinator
  - Special Education Director
  - Superintendent
- The Educational Leadership program focuses on the preparation of collaborative change agents for educational settings that promote equitable learning opportunities for all students.
- The program of study is designed to develop general leadership perspectives and specific technical skills for people assuming roles as teacher leaders, principals, special education directors, curriculum coordinators, or superintendents.

**Professional Educator**
- The Professional Educator program is designed for educators in a variety of settings who want to increase their knowledge, deepen their practice, and develop leadership in curriculum, instruction, and assessment through disciplined graduate study.
- Students take courses from a foundation core and an academic core that focuses on curriculum, teaching and assessment. Students then complete a concentration of their choice. A capstone completes the program.

### Getting Started
The master’s programs in educational leadership and professional educator allows prospective students to pursue up to six credits of its courses before applying for admission. For a complete listing of transfer course policies, registration instructions, and current USM course offerings and availability, see the Educational Leadership website.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.S. ED.: PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR:

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Rolling with priority deadlines for fall by May 1, spring by October 15, and summer by March 15.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Minimum requirements: Applicant must have a bachelor’s degree and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program; Applicants who do not have a 2.5 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an accredited college or university.

In addition to the regular requirements of graduate admission, applicants to the professional educator program must submit proof of teacher certification. The certification can be in any area and/or from any state. Practicing educators in private schools or other settings that do not require state certification are exempt from this requirement.

Application must include:
• A submitted online graduate admission application.
• The application fee of $65.00.
• Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application.
• Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form.
• Essay (see website).
• Completed Teacher Credential Summary Form.
• Current resume.
• Certification of finances (international students only);
• Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language).

For more information:
Educational Leadership
(207) 780-5968
michael.katz@maine.edu
8 Bailey Hall, USM Gorham Campus
usm.maine.edu/educational-leadership

For assistance with the application process:
Office of Admissions
(207) 780-4386
usmgrad@maine.edu

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR M.S. ED. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP:

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Rolling with priority deadlines. May 1 for fall matriculation, October 15 for spring matriculation, and March 15 for summer matriculation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Minimum Requirements: Applicant must have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in a baccalaureate degree program; Applicants who do not have a 2.5 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully.

In addition to the general requirements of the School, applicants to the educational leadership program should provide evidence of strong overall undergraduate performance and, in the administrative strand, are expected to have two years of teaching experience with the expectation of completing a third year of teaching during USM graduate study. The Maine Department of Education requires three years of teaching experience for administrative certification.

Application must include:
• A submitted online graduate admission application.
• The application fee of $65.00.
• Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application.
• Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant’s knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are easily submitted using our online application form. The recommendations should be from persons able to comment from direct knowledge of the applicant’s potential for success as a building administrator, special education director, or teacher leader.
• Essay (see below).
• Completed Teacher Credential Summary Form;
• Certification of finances (international students only).
• Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language).
• Current resume.
• In addition to the above submitted materials, applicants must complete a free Tk20 Application in order for your application to be reviewed.

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Admission requirements for the Certificate of Graduate Study and Certificate of Advanced Study may be found at our website.