

The Mentor

AN OVERVIEW OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MENTOR CANDIDATES

The M.S. in Education program with a specialization in Educational Leadership (Non-Licensure) offered by The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University, although not leading to administrative licensure, sets the standard for developing outstanding educators.

As part of the program, students complete an internship in collaboration with an education professional in the role of a mentor. The internship introduces students to real-life situations faced by educators and offers mentors an opportunity to contribute to the development of an educator and influence the field of education.

Roles and responsibilities of a mentor

- Assist with planning and scheduling internship activities.
- Be available for meetings and interviews for specific internship activities as well as for unscheduled discussions, questions, and problem-solving, for about 1 to 2 hours per week.
- Share past experiences and expertise related to the roles and responsibilities of an education professional.
- Model effective practices, procedures, strategies, and lifelong-learning and leadership behaviors.
- Provide constructive feedback to the intern.
- Allow the intern to be meaningfully involved in, and contribute to, chosen aspects of the school, and supervise that involvement.
- Assist the intern with access to situations and personnel needed to complete internship activities.
- Be available for conference calls (minimum of 3) with the intern and faculty internship advisor during the program.

Benefits of being a mentor

- The opportunity to contribute to the development of an education professional and to the field of education
- Assistance with tasks and responsibilities while the mentor provides valuable hands-on experience for the intern (e.g., beginning-of-the-year events)
- Support for areas of concern and interest to the mentor (e.g., school safety, facilities repair)
- Access to research and new information through the intern
- Access to data and evidence-based recommendations that can be used for a variety of purposes (e.g., implementation of a technology plan)
- Assistance with developing community relationships and partnerships

Requirements to be a mentor

- Master's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Licensure/credential as a professional educator
- Three years of experience as a professional educator
- A signed agreement between the intern and the mentor

Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, www.ncahlc.org; 1-312-263-0456.

Note on Licensure: Walden University does not offer a state-approved program in educational leadership that is recognized for K-12 school administrator licensure/certification in Minnesota (Walden's home state) or any other state, except in Texas through a partnership with the Harris County Department of Education known as the Future Texas Administrators Program. With the exception of this Texas collaborative, Walden University makes no representation or guarantee that successful completion of the Walden M.S. in Education program with a specialization in Educational Leadership, or coursework for graduate credit within this specialization, will permit a graduate to obtain state certification or licensure as a principal, assistant principal, or other type of K-12 administrator.

Prospective Alabama students: Contact the Teacher Education and Certification Division of the Alabama State Department of Education at 1-334-242-9935 or www.alsde.edu to verify that these programs qualify for teacher certification, endorsement, and/or salary benefits.

Prospective Washington state students are advised to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 1-360-725-6320 or prof.educ@k12.wa.us to determine whether Walden's programs in the field of education are approved for teacher certification or endorsements in Washington state. Additionally, teachers are advised to contact their individual school district as to whether this program may qualify for salary advancement.