The Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (MA-EDL) is designed to equip educators with the skills for positions of administration in PK-12 schools, higher education, and educational organizations. The Principal Administrative Endorsement is an option that many students choose to complete within the required course work for their MA-EDL. The Principal endorsement program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. Students are assigned an advisor when they are admitted to the program. The advisor will contact the student during the first semester of enrollment. The academic advisor will assist students in planning their program of study. Students should refer to the campus policy on Grades Acceptable Toward Master’s Degrees section of this catalog. The EDL master’s degree requires completion of 36 hours which includes course work in leadership, research, and curriculum.

Required Courses
Research
EDL 505 Introduction To Research 4
or EDL 541 Educational Research Methods
EDL 509 Organizational Dynamics 4
Curriculum
EDL 511 School Improvement 4
or EDL 543 Assessment for Learning
EDL 531 Capstone I 2
EDL 532 Capstone II 2
Total Hours 36

Principal Endorsement Requirements
Educators interested in obtaining administrative positions in Illinois public schools must earn the Principal Administrative License. Requirements for this license are established by the ISBE Licensure Board and include a master’s degree, two years of documented successful full-time teaching or four years of documented school service personnel experience, admission approval to an accredited Principal Administrative License program, 32 semester hours of required graduate courses, and an extensive internship experience. As required by ISBE, all candidates in the Principal Endorsement program will complete the following during their first enrolled semester:
1) Turn in a portfolio which contains a letter of recommendation from the applicant’s employer (school district); a letter of intent from the district that assures that at the appropriate point in the program the student will receive a placement as an intern in the district and will be permitted to complete his/her internship experiences; a current resume; a copy of the applicant’s teaching license or the page from the Illinois Educator’s Licensing Information System (ELIS) that shows current licensure; documents illustrating current leadership activities and skills, using data to solve problems, and implementing strategies used to improve student achievement.
2) Complete an interview with EDL faculty. Interview timeslots are open each month and scheduled once the student submits the application portfolio.

Courses required for the principal endorsement can be completed as just an endorsement track or as part of the MA-EDL. All students desiring principal endorsement from the ISBE must apply for admission to the endorsement program in addition to admission to the university. Internship experiences are required in the program and fulfill ISBE requirements for the principal endorsement.

Master’s Closure
All Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree candidates are required to complete master’s closure activities in order to graduate. EDL 531 and EDL 532 will be conducted during the internship experience at the school site. Students will work with a Capstone professor and Internship supervisor on this process.
Licensure
To obtain the licensure for principal, candidates will show proof of passing both ISBE principal exams and the Teacher Evaluator Training. Please refer to the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) website for the testing schedule.