Delaware Academy for School Leadership

University of Delaware

Principal Preparation Program
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The University of Delaware Principal Preparation Program is an **18-month** program in the State of Delaware that provides the necessary requirements for assistant principal/principal certification. Each program component supports student development of five core competencies which align with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) and the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards:

- **Vision & Goals**
- **Teaching, Learning and Community Supports for Students**
- **People, Professional Staff, Families, and Community**
- **Systems, Operations, and Management**
- **Professional Norms & Ethics**

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- **Statewide cohort model** utilizing a hybrid learning model;
- **Four core courses**: Leadership for Today's Students and Schools; Leadership in Curriculum and Instruction; Leadership for People, Systems & Operations; and Early Childhood Leadership;
- **Alignment to the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders**, Delaware’s Leadership Standards;
- **Two internship experiences** totaling 240+ hours with principal mentors who have a proven track record of success;
- **Supervising and Developing Educators Module** including opportunities to practice giving feedback to educators using the Delaware educator evaluation system;
- Focused **action research project** focused on a real problem of practice in their school or district;
- **Seminars** on current trends and issues in educational leadership;
- **One year of leadership coaching** following program completion & upon hire in a school leadership position

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Transcripts from an accredited institution of higher learning indicating the candidate has earned a master’s degree, and a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- Evidence of leadership in current and previous educator roles;
- Formative and summative performance evaluations demonstrating excellence as an educator for a minimum of five (5) years*;
- A writing sample; and
- Three letters of recommendation (including one from a current supervisor)

*Candidates with 3+ years will be considered; however, certification in the State of Delaware requires 5 years of experience as an educator.

HOW TO APPLY

The UDEL PPP seeks qualified applicants each fall. Information sessions will be held in-person and virtually. Please contact Alison Travers with any questions about the UDEL Principal Preparation Program: atravers@udel.edu or (302)500-7033.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

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4 COURSES + 2-PART INTERNSHIP
The UDEL Principal Preparation Program consists of four sequential core courses that align with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) and the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards. Utilizing a hybrid model, course delivery of instruction includes both face-to-face and virtual classes.

In addition to the 4 required courses, participants will receive training on Delaware's Performance Appraisal System (DPAS II) and have opportunities to practice and receive feedback. They will leave the program as credentialed evaluators of educators.

UDEL PPP participants also engage in a two-part internship totaling at least 240 hours, across two placements at different levels/grade bands, over the course of the 18-month program. The internships are guided collaboratively by the participating student, assigned principal-mentors and their DASL internship mentor, who supports the students during their experiences. The internship placements provide students with relevant, standards-based experiences in actual school settings.

ACTION RESEARCH
Throughout the span of the program, UDEL PPP participants are engaged in an action research related to a real-time challenge associated with their school or district. With guidance from program faculty and support from coursework, students are required to identify a Problem of Practice (POP), research, plan and implement a course of action to address their POP. Culminating in a Research Symposium, students conduct a 15-20 minute presentation to highlight the significant findings from their action research process.

UDEL PPP FACULTY
UDEL PPP participants are taught and coached by highly experienced instructors who offer extensive backgrounds working in both school-level and district-level administrative positions. With deep knowledge of evidence-based practices, UDEL PPP instructors further enhance participant learning by offering years of first-hand experiential knowledge in leading schools.
COURSE 1 - Fall: Leadership for Today’s Students & Schools
This course is an introduction to school leadership, focusing on the many requirements, expectations and demands required for a successful school leader. Example topics include: leadership styles, establishment of vision, comprehensive school reform, equity-centered leadership, creating and communicating positive school culture, communication and climate.

COURSE 2 - Spring: Leadership for People, Systems, & Operations
This course uses a variety of interactive learning strategies to address the essential management related components to being a school leader. Example topics in this course include finance, legal issues, managing the negotiated agreement, school safety planning, administrative services, policies and protocol, and interviewing/hiring/supporting staff in an equity-centered environment.

COURSE 3 - Summer: Leadership in Curriculum & Instruction
This course is designed to cover the core tenets of the school leader’s role towards being a highly effective equity-centered instructional leader. It examines the major themes of instructional leadership including, but not limited to, coaching staff, professional development, leveraging data, integrating technology, and allocating resources to support instructional improvement.

COURSE 4 - Fall 2: Early Childhood Leadership
This course focuses on helping future leaders develop a solid understanding of the many requirements, resources and supports necessary to provide a solid equity-centered early educational foundation for all students in Delaware. Example topics include: early childhood policy, instructional leadership, evaluation and supervision in Pre-K to 3 settings, school readiness, appropriate instruction and assessment of young children, effective literacy instruction, creating a positive school culture, and family and community connections.
Kristen Palma, Assistant Principal, Baltz Elementary School, Red Clay

What is your position/location now? I am in my third year as the Assistant Principal at Baltz Elementary School in Red Clay School District.

In 2-3 sentences, what was an aspect of the program that you feel was particularly beneficial for your preparation into leadership? The relationships I built with my cohort and program leaders was most beneficial. Sometimes you get stuck inside the bubble of your district and it was really nice to form professional relationships across the state with other leaders. It really comes in handy when you need to bounce something off someone or reach out for advice!

In 2-3 sentences, can you speak to how either the coaching, action research, coursework or internship experience helped to prepare you for your leadership position? To me, the internship experience was crucial in gaining the experience necessary to move forward in a leadership role. The hands on work I did day to day really helped build my confidence and give me real life scenarios to work out. I loved being able to see leadership in two different buildings at two different levels (elementary and middle school) and believe it made me a better leader to step out of my comfort zone a little.

What might you say to someone who is considering the DASL PPP? Don’t hesitate! It is a fantastic program that really prepares you for administration. My time in the UDEL PPP was invaluable and has allowed me to land where I am today and feel ready to take on the roles and responsibilities given to me.