



Request for Suspension of Admissions to or Discontinuation of a Graduate Program

Please check one:

Suspension of Admissions

A university may suspend admissions into a graduate degree program if:

- (1) The institution plans to reactivate admissions into the program within five years of the suspension, or
- (2) The program has existing students that need to complete their degrees prior to discontinuation of the program. If, after suspension of admissions into a graduate degree program, the program is not reactivated within the specified period, the program will be declared permanently discontinued. Reinstatement of a discontinued program will require formal approval as a new graduate degree program.

Immediate Discontinuation

An institution may immediately discontinue a program if there are no students currently enrolled in the program, and there is no intent to reactivate the program in the future. Reinstatement of a discontinued program will require formal approval as a new graduate degree program.

Date of request: *to come*

Implementation date: Fall 2020

Name of institution: KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Degree designation: Educational Leadership K-12, M.Ed., Ed.S., Ph.D. degrees
Ohio Superintendent Licensure graduate certificate
Principal Grades PK-6, 4-9 and 5-12: non-degree licensure programs

Primary institutional contact for this request:

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1. Provide a rationale for the suspension of admission of the program.

The College of Education, Health and Human Services temporarily is suspending admission into the Educational Leadership K-12 program area offered under the M.Ed., Ed.S. and Ph.D. degrees, as well as suspending admission to the Ohio Superintendent Licensure graduate certificate and the non-degree principal licensure programs. The suspension is due to the recent retirement of the faculty program coordinator, low student enrollment and the pending review from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The college wants time to evaluate the programs before re-opening admissions.

- **Faculty resources.** With recent retirements, the Educational Leadership K-12 program area—comprising three degree programs, one certificate program and three licensure programs—now only has one full-time faculty member. Safeguarding the quality of the program and meeting the needs of students cannot be accomplished by hiring more adjunct faculty, even short term. To say that the program is stretched too thin and needs to reflect and refocus is a gross understatement. This kind of reflection takes time and space that only a suspension of admissions will permit, and the immediate focus needs to be on ensuring successful completion of the program by currently enrolled students.
- **Enrollment.** There is only one new admitted student for fall 2020, in the M.Ed. degree, which is a cohort-based program. That low number, coupled with two current small cohorts in the degree (see data below), will not ensure viability. The college is working with the one admitted student to transfer to another program.
- **Accreditation.** A program report is due shortly for the upcoming and mandatory CAEP accreditation review. These reports are complicated and substantial. The sole faculty member has not been able to fully contribute to this effort; as a result, program data is limited and a successful CAEP program review is unlikely. An unsuccessful CAEP review leads to an automatic program suspension; therefore, the college is taking the proactive step to suspend the program before the review.

The admission suspension affects the offerings of the program at all locations and all deliveries. The M.Ed. degree is approved to be offered at the Kent Campus, Kent State's Independence location and Tallmadge High School. The Ed.S. degree is approved to be offered at the Kent Campus and Tallmadge High School. The Ph.D. degree and non-degree licensure programs are approved to be offered at the Kent Campus. The graduate certificate is offered online only.

2. Indicate number of students currently enrolled in the program.

Currently, there are 18 doctoral students, 13 of whom are in coursework stage. Six students are enrolled in the Educational Specialist degree and 15 students in the M.Ed. degree (two cohorts, of nine and six students, respectively). There are 14 students enrolled in the graduate certificate, two of whom are also enrolled in the Ph.D.

The last Tallmadge High School cohort graduated in December 2018. No students have been admitted to the program at the Independence location, as well as to the non-degree licensure programs, all of which were approved recently for fall 2019.

3. Describe how the suspension of admissions will affect the program and the students currently in the program. Explain plans for notifying current students and assisting them in the completion of their degrees, when applicable.

The suspension of admissions will benefit current students because it will give the remaining full- and part-time faculty members time to focus their attention of program completion for these students. Of consideration are the doctoral students in coursework who still must complete their dissertation.

Doctoral students are being advised to take the Dissertation Preparation course taught by a full-time faculty member in the Cultural Foundations program. Both doctoral and master’s degree students take courses taught by full-time faculty in the Evaluation and Measurement program. Students forming dissertation committees will be served by faculty from such program areas as Cultural Foundations, Curriculum and Instruction and Evaluation and Measurement.

In addition, the Education Leadership K-12 program is served by qualified part-time faculty, all of whom hold a terminal degree and are practicing or retired practitioners in a number of K-12 leadership roles. All hold graduate faculty status at Kent State, see table below of the some, but not all, part-time faculty in the program.

Table: Part-time faculty in the Educational Leadership K-12 program area.

Joseph Giancola, Ph.D.	Retired superintendent of Kent City School District
Edwin Holland, Ed.D.	Retired superintendent of Orange City Schools
Guy Parmigian, Ph.D.	Superintendent of Benton-Carroll-Salem Local School District
Valerie Riedthaler, Ph.D.	Independent Hearing Officer in the Student Services Department in Akron Public Schools
Wendy Samford, Ph.D.	Former assistant principal of Boardman Glenwood Middle School and author of <i>Out of the Dark: A Direction for Change in Education</i> (2016)
Paula Snyder, Ph.D.	Former director of human resources for Orange City Schools
William Zelei, Ed.D.	Executive director at Ohio Schools Council

The College of Education, Health and Human Services has constructed a teach-out schedule for current students that maps the courses (and identifies the instructors) for each course they need to complete their program of study. The college is committed to program completion for the remaining students in the program.

- 4. Will there be a loss of faculty or staff positions? If so, indicate when the faculty or staff members were or will be informed.**

There will not be a loss of faculty from the program.

- 5. Describe the plan for communicating the suspension of admissions.**

Applicants to the program for fall 2020 have been informed by e-mail of the suspension. They are being given the option of either being reviewed for admission to another program or receiving a full refund of their application fee.

The signature below verifies that this request has received the necessary institutional approval and that this information is truthful and accurate.

Respectfully,

Cynthia R. Stillings
Dean of Graduate Studies (Interim)
Kent State University