



# Master's in Educational Leadership with Urban School Specialization **FAQs**

### What is the ED-Entrepreneur Center (EEC)?

The Master's program prepares educators to lead the change we need for the academic success and equity of all students. The ED-Entrepreneur Center (EEC) is a partnership between the Teaching Trust and Southern Methodist University's Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Leadership programs provide participants with a rigorous and high quality experience and a deeper commitment to action learning than any other locally available program preparing educators for school leadership. The Teaching Trust is an independent non-profit organization that envisions an informed community where every student has an effective teacher and school leader who drive the conversation and the action necessary so that all students have equal access to a quality education.

#### Am I the ideal candidate for the EEC?

The ideal EEC Master's candidate must have an unwavering commitment and determination to bring our core values into practice—most importantly, an unyielding belief in the potential of <u>every child</u>, regardless of economic status, to achieve academically at high levels and the desire to lead a high need school. Additionally, all candidates must be a teacher in one of our partner districts, have instructional expertise in an urban setting with a demonstrated record of success, as well as the capacity to define a vision and achieve positive results despite obstacles. Successful candidates also meet our selection criteria.

# Do I align with the EEC's Core Values?

The candidates in our Master's program will demonstrate the following values as they pursue the goals of academic achievement and equal access to a quality K-12 education:

- 1. Disciplined Thought and Action: Results-driven, demonstrates a sense of urgency and purposefulness
- **2. Courage and Resilience:** Willing to take risks in order to overcome obstacles, adaptability to bounce back from challenges with little down time, perseverance to accomplish goals
- **3.** Entrepreneurial Mindset: Innovative, resourceful and willing to assume responsibility for achieving personal and organizational goals
- **4. Active Reflection:** Comfortable with diverse perspectives, able to self-evaluate and modify behavior in order to achieve personal growth and development
- **5.** *Integrity and Judgment:* Alignment of actions with values and core beliefs; the ability to see the relationship between the parts and the whole and between actions and consequences.

# **ADMISSIONS**

# Do I have the minimum number of years of teaching experience required to apply for the program?

All applicants must possess instructional expertise in a K-12 urban school setting including, at minimum, 2 years of full-time K-12 classroom teaching experience.

### Can I afford to attend the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with Urban School Specialization?

Due to heavy scholarships and competitive selection, EVERY student admitted to the program will receive a scholarship. Candidates who are selected for the program will receive scholarship funding for approximately 85% of the cost of the degree in return for a commitment to serve in an urban school for at least three years after graduation. Net tuition over the two years paid by the candidate will be **\$5,000** with candidates paying half in the fall and the second half paid in spring.

#### What important information must I know about the application process?

Candidates must submit the complete application (with essays questions and references) along with GRE scores no later than <u>February 1, 2012</u>. A combined verbal and quantitative score of 1000 and an analytical writing score of 4.5 on the GRE (taken within the last 5 years) is the university guideline for Master's programs, but applications will be evaluated with this as only one factor. Also, there is a non-refundable \$75 application fee. If you have previously applied to our program, you are <u>not</u> required to pay the application fee.

#### When will I be notified if I am invited to the Assessment Center?

As a part of the application process, EEC program staff will invite select candidates to an "Assessment Center" which entails a variety of assessment tools to gauge candidate readiness. Activities could include: interview, scenario discussion, writing activity, etc.

#### Will I get feedback if I am not accepted into the program?

Due to the anticipated large number of applicants, we are unable to provide feedback to individual candidates who are denied admission. We encourage all applicants to carefully review our Selection Criteria and self-assess their strengths and growth areas.

#### Acceptance

#### If I am not accepted into the program, can I apply again?

You are welcome to reapply in following years. During that time, we encourage you to seek opportunities for professional development that align with the program's selection competencies..

#### What are my commitments beyond graduation?

Candidates will sign a contract as a part of their scholarship agreements to commit to serve in a partnership school for at <u>least three years after graduating from the program</u>. In exchange, all EEC candidates benefit from the significantly reduced Master's degree and certification costs as well as placement in a leadership position in an during residency.

#### **Program Structure**

#### When will I have classes?

This 45-hour degree program is designed for working professionals and can be completed in two years including two summer sessions. Students take courses in a prescribed sequence through two 7-week modules in the fall, two 7-week modules in the spring, one 3-week module and one 2-week module during

the first summer of enrollment and a 2 to 3 week module during the second summer of enrollment. During the fall and spring academic terms, classes meet for approximately 4 hours on Wednesday evenings and 4 hours on Saturdays (\*during the first half of each semester, classes **may** be scheduled all day on Saturdays with a break for lunch). Summer session classes meet 5 days per week, with the exception of Field Studies, which meet on an as-needed basis. The EEC retains the right to defer 2 classes to the second year if it is beneficial to the cohort and faculty in order to avoid full day Saturday scheduling. Candidates are also required to attend four one-day Applied Institutes during the residency year.

### THE RESIDENCY YEAR

# Do I have to leave my current school and/or position during the residency?

Candidates will work at a campus with a mentor trained through the EEC, which may be their existing campus. It is possible that some candidates may move (with district approval) to another campus during the residency. It is critical that candidates have a rich and meaningful experience that will be guided by a supportive mentor principal.

### Will I be paid during my residency year?

You will receive the same compensation and benefits during the residency unless the candidate is hired as an assistant/associate principal or equivalent thus requiring a pay scale adjustment. Otherwise, candidates will assume a leadership role while remaining on the same pay structure.

#### Will I receive provisional certification prior to the residency?

Upon successful completion of the year-long coursework, candidates will apply for a provisional certification from the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). All candidates will seek a campus leadership role including, but not limited to: coach, academic coordinator or assistant/associate principal.

#### What will I do during the residency?

Following the year-long intensive course study, you will spend a year in a paid, full-time residency at an urban public school in one of our partner districts alongside a skilled mentor principal. Check our website at <a href="www.smu.edu/urbanleaderMEd">www.smu.edu/urbanleaderMEd</a> or at <a href="www.teachingtrust.org">www.teachingtrust.org</a> to see an updated list of partner districts. The residency builds upon coursework, enabling Candidates to become full members of school leadership teams, drive academic achievement and apply skills learned through authentic work. You will also work with your mentor to develop your skills in alignment with a personalized learning plan. Residency year projects are designed to provide you with the opportunity to gain and demonstrate competency in the core work of the principalship - increasing student achievement.

The residency is a full-time, full-year field experience consisting of working with a selected mentor principal in an urban public school as a member of the school's leadership team. Through the residency, candidates demonstrate their understanding and application of the key skills presented in coursework and they develop their proficiency in the EEC Principal Leadership Competencies. Coaches/EEC Clinical Faculty visit candidates regularly at their sites and support candidates' implementation of their learning and skills.

Candidates are required to attend four one-day Applied Institutes during the residency year. These institutes are designed to provide candidate with an opportunity to continue the formal coursework and adding real-world school leadership experiences from the residency to inform and enhance the learning experience. During the residency year, candidates also complete three major residency projects.

EEC program staff encourages candidates to take on leadership roles, gain familiarity with social change and education reform issues, keep track of innovative ideas that you may want to implement as a school leader and seek feedback on opportunities for continued growth.

# Will I receive training and support during my residency year?

Candidates will receive support, coaching, and mentoring from EEC program staff, clinical faculty and outstanding mentor principals and from peers through Applied Institutes. Institutes may include discussions, small group work, lectures and presentations. Candidates participate in case-study groups, peer-led presentations, discussion sessions, and/or book talks.

# **After the Residency Year**

What kind of support does the EEC provide for candidates after the residency year? Our goal is that each candidate becomes a highly effective and autonomous school leader with demonstrated results after completing the residency.

# How will I secure a position as an assistant principal or school leader after completing the residency?

Candidates are responsible for finding their own placements as assistant principals or equivalent upon graduation. While we support candidates in the job search process, we do not place candidates in an assistant principalship after completion of the program. We work closely with each candidate to identify openings that may be a strong match for him or her, but each individual is responsible for pursuing job opportunities and securing a placement. The choice of size, type, and culture of a school are left to the individual, allowing flexibility in the job search process.

**ED-Entrepreneur Center** represents the collaboration between SMU Simmons School of Education and Human Development and The Teaching Trust, an independent non-profit organization. For more information, visit our website at <a href="www.teachingtrust.org">www.teachingtrust.org</a> or <a href="www.smu.edu/urbanleaderMEd">www.smu.edu/urbanleaderMEd</a> or contact us at (214) SMU-7437.



