

College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership
Comprehensive Exam Study Guide – 2025-2026
M.Ed. Instructional Leadership - Non-Licensure

Each essay response should be between 350-400 words in length and must incorporate relevant theories, concepts, and research findings. Use appropriate terminology, conceptual frameworks, and reference authorities in the field when necessary.

****Area A: Philosophy & Introduction to Educational Administration (EDAD 5020)****

1. Analyze the historical development of educational administration in the United States and discuss how this history influences current practices in school leadership. (350-400 words)
2. Examine the major philosophical perspectives that have shaped educational administration and discuss their implications for contemporary school leadership. (350-400 words)
3. Evaluate the organizational structures commonly found in schools and discuss how these structures impact leadership effectiveness and student outcomes. (350-400 words)
4. Discuss the role of educational administrators in promoting equity and social justice within schools, and propose strategies for addressing systemic inequalities in education. (350-400 words)

****Area B: Instructional Leadership (EDAD 5030)****

1. Analyze the key components of effective instructional leadership and discuss how school administrators can support and improve teaching and learning processes. (350-400 words)
2. Examine various models of instructional supervision and evaluate their effectiveness in promoting teacher growth and student achievement. (350-400 words)
3. Discuss the role of data-driven decision making in instructional leadership and propose strategies for effectively using assessment data to improve instruction. (350-400 words)
4. Evaluate the impact of technology on instructional practices and discuss how educational leaders can promote the effective integration of technology in the classroom. (350-400 words)

****Area C: Human Resource Management (EDAD 5200)****

1. Analyze the key components of effective human resource management in educational settings and discuss strategies for attracting and retaining high-quality educators. (350-400 words)

2. Examine the legal and ethical considerations in hiring, evaluating, and dismissing school personnel, and discuss strategies for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations. (350-400 words)

3. Evaluate various models of teacher evaluation and professional development, and discuss their effectiveness in promoting teacher growth and student achievement. (350-400 words)

4. Discuss the role of educational leaders in fostering a positive school culture and climate, and propose strategies for promoting collaboration and teamwork among staff members. (350-400 words)

****Area D: Social Political Issues in Education (EDAD 5640)****

1. Analyze the impact of local, state, and federal education policies on school operations and student outcomes, and discuss strategies for navigating these political landscapes. (350-400 words)

2. Examine the role of community engagement in school improvement efforts and propose strategies for building effective partnerships with families, businesses, and community organizations. (350-400 words)

3. Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with promoting equity and diversity in schools, and propose strategies for addressing achievement gaps and promoting inclusive learning environments. (350-400 words)

4. Evaluate the impact of current social and political issues (e.g., school choice, standardized testing, funding disparities) on public education and discuss the implications for educational leaders. (350-400 words)

****Area E: Educational Law (EDAD 5050)****

1. Analyze the key federal and state laws that impact educational administration, and discuss strategies for ensuring compliance within schools. (350-400 words)

2. Examine the legal rights and responsibilities of students, parents, and school personnel, and discuss strategies for balancing these rights within the school environment. (350-400 words)

3. Evaluate the legal considerations surrounding special education and discuss strategies for ensuring compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and related laws. (350-400 words)

4. Discuss the legal and ethical considerations related to student discipline, privacy, and safety, and propose strategies for developing and implementing effective school policies in these areas. (350-400 words)

Rubric

1. Depth of Knowledge (25%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the subject matter, providing a wealth of relevant examples, evidence, and insights.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the subject matter, providing relevant examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 3 points: The response demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the subject matter, providing some examples and evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 2 points: The response demonstrates a limited understanding of the subject matter, providing few examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates a lack of understanding of the subject matter, providing no relevant examples or evidence to support the arguments presented.

2. Critical Analysis (25%):

- 5 points: The response provides a highly insightful and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering innovative and well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 4 points: The response provides a thorough and critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering well-reasoned arguments and solutions.
- 3 points: The response provides a satisfactory analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering some arguments and solutions.
- 2 points: The response provides a limited analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering few arguments or solutions.
- 1 point: The response provides no critical analysis of the issues and challenges associated with the topic, offering no arguments or solutions.

3. Organization and Clarity (20%):

- 5 points: The response is exceptionally well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 4 points: The response is well-organized, clear, and concise, with a logical flow of ideas and smooth transitions between paragraphs.
- 3 points: The response is adequately organized and clear, with a somewhat logical flow of ideas and transitions between paragraphs.
- 2 points: The response is poorly organized and lacks clarity, with a disjointed flow of ideas and abrupt transitions between paragraphs.
- 1 point: The response is disorganized and unclear, with no logical flow of ideas or transitions between paragraphs.

4. Writing Mechanics (15%):

- 5 points: The response demonstrates excellent grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with no errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 4 points: The response demonstrates good grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with few errors and follows the specified word count requirements.

- 3 points: The response demonstrates adequate grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with some errors and follows the specified word count requirements.
- 2 points: The response demonstrates poor grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with many errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.
- 1 point: The response demonstrates unacceptable grammar, spelling, and punctuation, with numerous errors and does not follow the specified word count requirements.

5. Relevance and Applicability (15%):

- 5 points: The response is highly relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers practical, insightful, and actionable recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 4 points: The response is relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers practical insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 3 points: The response is somewhat relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers some insights and recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 2 points: The response is minimally relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers few insights or recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.
- 1 point: The response is not relevant to the field of higher education administration and offers no insights or recommendations that can be applied in real-world settings.