

# LEGAL ASPECTS OF EDUCATION

graduate certificate

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

School districts have always operated within a legal framework but in recent years the laws, regulations and mandates that govern education have increased not only in number but in the level of complexity. This certificate program offers educators advanced training in the fundamental legal issues that impact schools and introduces recent legal developments that school teachers and administrators are likely to encounter. Educators seeking career advancement in administration or union/school board leadership will especially benefit from this series of courses.

## ADVANTAGE UIS

- **Faculty expertise.** In addition to those with actual juris doctorate degrees, the professors in this program have extensive experience in the classroom and at the highest administrative levels of elementary and secondary education. Our professors have been there and done that and will understand the challenges you're facing.
- **CPDUs.** The coursework in this program will help educators meet their statutory mandated requirements for professional development and certification.
- **Online.** We're national leaders in this delivery method in every academic program, but the number of educators earning graduate degrees and certificates through online coursework is extraordinary and growing every year. The professors teaching our rigorous online courses are the same ones teaching in the classrooms.

**On point.** The legal issues you'll tackle in this program are the hot button topics educators face:

Governance  
Federal and state roles  
School finance  
Academic standards  
Teacher licensure  
School restructuring  
NCLB  
Hiring, contracts, and tenure

High stakes testing  
Supervision & evaluation  
Discipline  
Children with disabilities  
Early childhood & special education  
Collective bargaining  
Pupil and parent rights  
and more.

## What can I do with this certificate?

The coursework will provide educators with the knowledge and analytical skills they need to deal effectively with legal issues and, also, to consider creative ways in which the law can be used to help address current problems in schools. The underlying philosophy is prevention of legal problems. This series of coursework has been very beneficial to educators holding prominent roles in their district's collective bargaining units, state educational professional organizations, and/or leadership positions within their school districts. Participants have included public and private school teachers, educational support staff, pupil-personnel service staff, parents, board members, advocates and administrators.

## Wise Words

Judith M. Schramm, 8th Grade Teacher  
Palos South Middle School, IL

"The Legal Aspects program provided me with a strong foundation in educational law. The classes were very thought provoking and relevant. I am more knowledgeable and aware of the impact law has on the educational system from lobbying to the lawyers in the classroom. I enjoyed the Legal Aspects program so much that it inspired me to run for my local school board."

**Double duty.** The ten courses offered in this certificate program are the same courses our students seeking a master's degree take as electives. Many non-degree-seeking students taking graduate coursework at UIS are inspired to go on to earn their master's degree in our Educational Leadership or Teacher Leadership programs.

The series of courses that comprise the Legal Aspects of Education graduate certificate are part of UIS' Master of Arts degree in Teacher Leadership (MTL). The development of these courses was prompted by discussions with the Illinois Education Association in an attempt to remove the barriers of accessibility and time for educators seeking a high-quality, applicable, informative knowledge base specifically dealing with the legalities of education. This series of courses offers advanced training at the graduate level, not only to students in our Educational Leadership and Teacher Leadership master's degree programs, but also to anyone wanting training in the Legal Aspects of Education, especially in Illinois.

**Faculty** Marcilene Dutton, J.D.; Frank Kopecky, Ph.D.; Mary Loken, Ph.D.; Margaret Noe, Ph.D., J.D.; Brian Schwarz, J.D.; Barbara Van-Dyke Brown

**Entrance Requirements**

To be eligible, students must be approved by the Educational Leadership Program.

Participants will complete the standard UIS graduate admission application forms and supply the official transcript from the college or university where they earned a bachelor's or master's degree. Applications will be reviewed by the EDL Admissions Committee which will notify admitted students.

**Program Requirements**

**EDL 574 Critical Legal Issues in Education**

This course is designed to explore the critical legal issues in the education workplace. Topical discussions could include areas of policy, legislation, recent court cases, or current issues in school reform, such as high stakes testing, NCLB, certification, funding, school choice, vouchers, alternative education, school consolidation, educational technology, etc.

**EDL 575 Legal Aspects of Special Education**

The course will include a discussion of the legal rights of students with disabilities and the corresponding responsibilities and obligations of schools and educational personnel for meeting their educational needs. The course will include specific legal components inherent with the identification and education of students with disabilities including adaptations of classroom instructional methodology for students with disabilities in the regular education classroom.

**EDL 576 Educational Workplace: Legal Risks**

The course will include a discussion of tort liability issues for employees in the educational

workplace. Discussion will include ways to identify and reduce risk exposure for educational employees, types of liability, immunity and indemnification of educational employees.

**EDL 577 Schools in the Legal System**

The course entails an examination of the legal system and education. It is designed to be an introductory course for a series of school law courses. Basic legal topics will be explored using educational issues and illustrations.

**EDL 578 Educational Workplace: Employee Issues**

This course will discuss the workplace requirements and issues governing the employment, hiring dismissal and job security of educational personnel. The course will include an examination of testing, certification, and licensing requirements, performance evaluations and fair labor standards.

**EDL 579 Collective Bargaining Issues**

The course will concentrate on the issues involved with bargaining rights relative to the educational workplace. The course will include a discussion of the legal rights and responsibilities of employers and employees under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and strategies such as interest based bargaining will be highlighted.

**EDL 580 Teacher, Parent, and Student Rights**

The course will include a discussion of the rights and responsibilities of teachers, parents and students. Topics will include fundamental freedoms of expression, religion, association, due process, discrimination, free speech, publications, and academic freedom.

**EDL 581 Educational Workplace: Legal Issues**

The course will address the responsibilities of educators in the educational workplace. The course will include statutorily-mandated legal information to enable educators to respond effectively in the educational setting.

**EDL 582 Political Action and Advocacy**

The course will include a discussion of the role of the educational employee as an advocate for issues affecting education and children. The role of the educational employee in the politics of education will be discussed. The course is designed to analyze policy issues relevant to the educational workplace by using legal advocacy research and related resources.

**EDL 583 Teaching Law in K-12 Schools**

The course will assist educators to integrate law and legal materials into the school curriculum. Law-related educational resources will be examined with a demonstration of common law-related methods. Emphasis will be placed on application of secondary sources of law.

**Visit our website for more information on**

- Advising
- Online learning technical requirements
- Educational Leadership M.A.
- Teacher Leadership M.A.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Teacher Leadership Educational Leadership**

(217) 206-6130 or mtl@uis.edu

**Website**

http://mtl.uis.edu

Office of Admissions

(217) 206-4847

or Toll free (888) 977-4847

admissions@uis.edu

www.uis.edu/admissions

**IMPORTANT**—Information effective spring 2007. Subject to change without notice. The information is not to be considered final, nor does it constitute a contract between the student and UIS. See www.uis.edu/uisacatalog for current program requirements.

The University of Illinois at Springfield is one of three U of I campuses and is located on 746 picturesque acres in the state capital of Illinois. We are a small, public liberal arts university where faculty members are teacher-scholars and the average class size is 15. UIS offers 42 degree programs - 21 bachelor's,

20 master's, and the Doctorate of Public Administration. UIS has a special mission in public affairs and service and is known for close faculty-student relationships, a commitment to teaching, extraordinary internships, and extensive online offerings. Enrollment is approximately 4,700.

