



# Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership



**PennState**  
World Campus

A world of possibilities.  
Online.



# Online Learning Through Penn State World Campus

To help you balance your commitments to family, career, and studies, the Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership is offered in collaboration with the College of Education and delivered online through Penn State World Campus. Your learning experience will be enhanced by frequent faculty interaction, collaborative group projects, access to instructional resources, and dedicated academic advising and support services. Courses are offered with fixed start and end dates. You can complete course work at the time that best fits your schedule; however, there are weekly deadlines. Upon successful completion of the program requirements, you will receive a formal certificate identical to those received by resident Penn State students.

# Teacher Leadership

This 12-credit certificate includes Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)–approved course work leading to Teacher Leaders Endorsement. Your course work will help you develop the professional knowledge, skills, and competencies required of candidates for the endorsement.

This important credential verifies a teacher’s ability to enhance school culture, impact planned change for school improvement, influence instructional effectiveness, and lead peer educators in professional development.

If you apply and are accepted to the program, you can start with the certificate program and then apply 12 credits toward a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. You can also start in the master’s program and earn your certificate along the way to degree completion.

To learn more about the Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership, visit: [worldcampus.psu.edu/teachlead](https://worldcampus.psu.edu/teachlead)

## Who Should Apply?

If you are a K–12 teacher looking to advance into a lead role or specialization area in your school or district, you can benefit greatly from this program. To be accepted into the program, you must hold Level I or Level II Pennsylvania teaching certification and have access to a school setting and a mentor that has at least three years’ experience in a current educational leadership position.

## Equity and Diversity

We value individual uniqueness, foster a culture of inclusion that leverages the educational benefits of diversity, and engage all learners in the development of leadership that promotes equity for all. The core curriculum for this program was developed to align strongly with equity and diversity.

## Curriculum

### **Required courses (3 credits each):**

#### **Introduction to Teacher Leadership**

Focuses on understanding teacher leadership and its function within the school system.

#### **How Schools Work**

Covers understanding schools as learning organizations and how teacher leadership works in such organizations.

#### **Planned Change for School Improvement**

Studies general models for school improvement purposes and examines programs and practices in schools, including instruction, assessment, and professional development.

#### **Principles of Instructional Leadership**

Provides aspiring leaders with collaborative learning opportunities and activities authentic to school- and district-level leaders and to leadership roles in educational organizations.

# Development Opportunities

Teacher leaders are equipped to support instructional leadership in the school and contribute leadership to multiple areas of the school. Teachers leaders may hold formal roles such as department chairperson or grade-level team leader, and they may also serve informally to support principal leadership with instructional coaching, curricular development, culture-building, professional development, and many other functions of teacher leadership.



# Begin Your Application Today

Admissions decisions for the Graduate Certificate in Teacher Leadership are based on the quality of your complete application portfolio.

Your application portfolio must include:

- › online graduate application and fee
- › official transcripts from each institution attended
- › successful undergraduate record with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- › three letters of recommendation
- › statement of purpose
- › résumé
- › writing sample
- › TOEFL or IELTS scores, if applicable

## Why Penn State?

- › Courses are designed around best practices in online delivery and are authored by recognized full-time faculty members, with input and review by practicing teachers and school leaders
- › Instructors include a mix of research faculty, experienced practitioners, and sitting building/district leaders
- › Curriculum is aligned with state and national standards for both teacher and school leadership

# Contact Us

## Admissions Questions

[pennstateonline@psu.edu](mailto:pennstateonline@psu.edu)

814-863-5386

[worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions](http://worldcampus.psu.edu/admissions)



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