



EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST (ED.S.) AND EDUCATIONAL DOCTORATE (ED.D)

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Educational Leadership Program at UAB offers a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural contexts for empowering leaders to improve K-12 schools and preparing candidates to become instructional leaders. Deeply rooted and respected in our community, the UAB Educational Leadership Program enjoys a rich tradition of partnership and support with school districts throughout our service area. Our graduates serve in leadership roles throughout the area and beyond as dynamic school superintendents, principals, and assistant principals.

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST (ED.S.)

The Educational Specialist degree program is intended for teachers with a master's degree, a Class A certificate in Instructional Leadership, and a minimum of three years of teaching experience who wish to add a Class AA certification in Instructional Leadership to their administrative credentials and become eligible to apply for admission to our Educational Doctorate (EdD) program in Educational Leadership.

Cohorts for the Ed.S. Program are offered in downtown Birmingham on UAB's campus, in Hoover at Simmons Middle School, and in Cullman at the Cullman Area Career Center.

Curriculum

The Educational Specialist degree program consists of (a) educational leadership coursework, (b) course-related field experiences, (c) an advisor-approved Foundations of Education elective. A practicum is also required for those students who obtained a Class A certification in Instructional Leadership prior to September 1, 2008. Core courses include Leading Change; Leading the Adult Learning Community; Management of the Learning Organization; Essential Skills for Organizational Leadership; Law, Ethics, and Policy for Educational Leaders; and Leadership of Special Programs. Candidates for the educational specialist degree must complete the special education course Introduction to Exceptional Learners (ECY 600) or its equivalent.

Application Process

Application is made through the UAB Graduate School by form or on-line at uab.edu/graduate. Full admission requirements may also be found there.

The program accepts applications to begin study in the fall, spring, and summer terms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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EDUCATIONAL DOCTORATE (ED.D)

The doctoral degree program in educational leadership is a joint initiative of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Alabama designed for school administrators and teachers who hold an EdS and Class AA certification in an instructional, instructional leadership, or instructional support area and who would like to enhance their analytical, management, and leadership skills in order to attain senior administrative positions in elementary, middle, and high schools, district-level offices, or state K-12 organizations or who wish to teach at the post-secondary level.

The Ed.D. program uses a cohort model that encourages group learning and fosters lasting professional relationships among educators. Cohorts are admitted once every two years in the fall term, and meet two nights per week throughout the 6 semesters of course work. The program also requires a residency which consists of an additional minimum of three semesters of dissertation work after all coursework is completed. This results in a minimum of nine semesters of coursework and research to complete the program.

Curriculum

This program requires a minimum of 52 credit hours and consists of core leadership courses, foundations courses, research electives, and dissertation hours. Both UAB and UA faculty teach the core leadership courses. The foundations classes, taught by UAB faculty, provide an individualized sequence of courses designed to meet the specific learning and research needs of our doctoral students. Students study strategic and instructional leadership, organizational theory, and data-driven decision-making among other subjects. Research courses prepare students to assess carefully the kinds of challenges school leaders currently face and to write their dissertations.

Application Process

Application is made through the UAB Graduate School by form or on-line at uab.edu/graduate. Full admission requirements may also be found there.

The Ed.D. program admits once every two years in the fall term. The next admission will be for fall 2019. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2019.