

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, MA

A Master of Arts degree (30 semester hours) in educational leadership leading to Alabama Class A Instructional Leader certification provides students with initial certification in Alabama for Instructional Leadership in P-12 schools. The coursework provides students with a thorough knowledge and understanding of the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures in the field of instructional leadership. Candidates learn to work with students, families, and communities in ways that reflect the professionalism and expertise expected of educational leaders. The program content is consistent with state and national standards. A *reduced-hour* option to earn Class A Instructional Leader certification is available for applicants who qualify.

An Overseas master's degree program in Educational Leadership is offered to overseas students. The Overseas program does not lead to professional licensure or certification.

The Graduate Catalog is published annually. For certification programs, State-approved program checklists may be updated more frequently and are thus likely to provide the most up-to date information about requirements. A current program checklist may be obtained from the program office. Students should consult their advisors each semester before registering.

MA in Educational Leadership with Class A Instructional Leader certification

Admission Requirements

Please see the link below for general Graduate School admission requirements.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

An entrance exam score (at least 300 on the GRE or the 50th percentile or above on the MAT) is needed for regular admission. In addition to meeting admission requirements of the Graduate School and the College of Education, applicants must meet the following additional requirements for admission to the Educational Leadership/MA program leading to Class A Instructional Leader certification:

- a valid [Alabama](#) Class B professional educator certificate in a teaching field or a valid [Alabama](#) Class A professional educator certificate in a teaching field or instructional support area,
- a minimum of three full years of full-time, acceptable professional educational experience in a P-12 setting, which must include at least one full year of full-time P-12 classroom teaching experience,
- the submission of a portfolio before the interview,
- an application to the educational leadership department, and
- passing an interview conducted by the program committee.

The application portfolio must include:

1. three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the applicant's principal or direct supervisor,
2. a completed copy (all forms) of the most recent performance evaluation including the professional development component, if available,
3. evidence of ability to improve student achievement,
4. evidence of leadership and management potential, including evidence of most recent accomplishments in educational leadership,
5. a summary of the candidate's reasons for pursuing the certification in instructional leadership, and

6. a summary of what the candidate expects from the certification program.

Individuals must be unconditionally admitted to the Class A Instructional Leader program before enrolling in any leadership courses in the program.

Degree Requirements

This course listing applies to those who begin this program June 1, 2017. A minimum of 30 hrs of appropriate graduate work, successful completion of a comprehensive exam, and passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment are required. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Code and Title	Hours
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
(Choose ONE of these SDE approved diversity courses.)	
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	3
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education	
Educational Research:	
BER 540 Statistical Methods In Educ	3
Instructional Support Area:	
AEL 520 Leadership for Communities *	3
AEL 521 Leadership for Improvement	3
AEL 522 Teaching and Learning	3
AEL 523 Human Resource Development	3
AEL 524 Ethics and Law	3
AEL 525 Management	3
AEL 526 Data Informed Decision Making	3
Internship:	
AEL 527 Internship in Educ Leadership	3
Additional Requirements:	
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	30-33

* SDE-approved diversity course

Reduced-Hour Option leading to Class A Instructional Leader (certification only)

Beginning Summer 2015, individuals holding a valid, Alabama Class A professional educator certificate may apply for admission to the reduced-hour option to pursue certification only.

Admission Requirements

Minimum requirements include:

- a valid [Alabama](#) Class A professional educator certificate in a teaching field or instructional support area,

- a minimum of three full years of full-time, acceptable professional educational experience in a P-12 setting, which must include at least one full year of full-time P-12 classroom teaching experience,
- a graduate GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale,
- submission of a portfolio before participation in the assessment process, which will include an interview, and
- submission of a writing sample in a sit-down format and a review by the program admission committee.

Reduced-hour Option leading to Class A Instructional Leader (certification only)

Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Successful completion of a comprehensive exam and passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment are required.

Code and Title	Hours
AEL 520 Leadership for Communities *	3
AEL 521 Leadership for Improvement	3
AEL 523 Human Resource Development	3
AEL 524 Ethics and Law	3
AEL 525 Management	3
Internship:	3
AEL 527 Internship in Educ Leadership	
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	18-21

* SDE-approved diversity course

Certification

To be awarded Alabama Class A Instructional Leader certification, students must:

- maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 (effective July 1, 2017) on all courses with no grade below a C,
- receive a passing score on a comprehensive assessment documenting mastery of the curriculum,
- successfully complete the internship and residency,
- receive a passing score on the required Praxis subject assessment,
- complete a survey of special education course (SPE 300 Survey Spe Accomd Stratg or SPE 500 Intro Exc Childr/Youth) or its equivalent.

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education. The state requirements change from time to time and, accordingly, the department's requirements and programs are subject to change.

Field experience objectives, including progression from observation through participation to leadership behaviors are embedded in each course and assessed by the faculty member of record for each course.

The program of study leading to Class A Instructional Leader certification is based on a cohort approach to instruction with cohorts being established annually. For admission forms and requirements, specific program parameters, departmental policies and contact information, please review the ELPTS website.

Non-Certification Overseas Program for Educational Leadership, MA

This is a non-certification program offered only to overseas students. Completion of this program does not lead to professional licensure or certification.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the Graduate School (Admission Criteria) and the College of Education (General Admission) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.

To be considered for regular admission to an International Programs graduate program in the College of Education, a student must satisfy the following admission requirement:

- An undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 semester hours in a degree program, or a 3.0 or higher GPA in a completed graduate degree program.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Overseas Program Course Requirements	Hours
Instructional Support Area	
AEL 530 Intro to Ed Leadership	3
AEL 531 Evidence-based Decision Making	3
AEL 532 Supervision and Mentoring	3
AEL 533 Mngmt and Strategic Planning	3
AEL 534 Leadership & Org Theory	3
AEL 535 Leadership of Curr & Instruc.	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal: 18
Educational Research	
BER 500 Intro Educatn Research	3
Electives* (Select THREE 3-hour courses from the list below.) 9	
BER 550 Eval Classroom Learning	
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
SPE 500 Intro Exc Childr/Youth	
CEE 594 Problems	
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	
Total Hours	30

Footnotes

- * Additional courses may be approved by the Office of International Programs.