

# EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, ED.S.

The EdS degree in educational leadership requires a minimum of 30 hours and provides coursework for those seeking **Class AA Instructional Leader** certification or **Class AA Teacher Leader** certification. Additionally, a concentration in School Library Media Specialist, leading to **Class AA Library Media Specialist** certification, is also offered.

Admission and degree requirements for the Graduate School and for the College of Education are detailed in the relevant sections of this catalog. Admission and degree requirements are subject to change and may be under revision at the time of publication. Please check with the Office of Student Services and Certification or the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies for the most current information.

The Graduate Catalog is published annually. 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.

## Admissions

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

### Class AA Instructional Leader (P-12) Certification

To be considered, applicants must qualify for regular admission to the program.

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission, applicants must:

1. hold a valid Alabama Class A Professional Educator certificate in Instructional Leadership or a valid Class A Professional Leadership certificate.
2. meet one of the following criteria:
  - currently serving as a superintendent, assistant or associate superintendent, principal, assistant principal, supervisor (any subject and/or grade level), administrator of career and technical education, coordinator or evaluator;
  - three years of experience in an instructional leadership position; OR
  - demonstrate each of the abilities in the Class A Instructional Leadership standards.

Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

### Class AA Teacher Leader (P-12) Certification

To be considered, applicants must:

1. hold a valid master's level professional educator certificate in any teaching field or area of instructional support,
2. have a minimum of three full years of full-time teaching experience in a P-12 setting, and
3. submit a portfolio containing:
  - a. three (3) letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant's current principal
  - b. a copy of the applicant's professional development transcript from PowerSchool

c. evidence of the ability to positively affect student achievement [This should include things that the applicant has done to help improve student learning.]

d. evidence of collaborative leadership potential [This should include any formal and informal leadership role(s) the applicant has held.]

e. a current resume

Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

In order to maintain compliance with the Alabama Board of Education, admission and program requirements are subject to change. Admission forms and requirements, specific program parameters, departmental policies and contact information can be found at the departmental website. Students should consult with their advisors before registering each semester.

## Curricular Requirements

### Class AA Instructional Leader (P-12) Certification

Individuals must meet ALSDE requirements for "unconditional admission" to the Class AA Instructional Leadership program or the institution's Class AA Teacher Leader program before enrolling in ANY instructional leadership courses in the program.

This course listing applies to those who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. A comprehensive exam is required, and candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. Students should consult with their advisors before registering each semester.

Class AA Instructional Leader (P-12)		Hours
<b>Required Courses:</b>		
AEL 631	Strategic Leadership	3
AEL 632	Leading Learning Through Curr	3
AEL 633	Leading Adult Learners	3
AEL 634	Develop. & Supervision of HR	3
AEL 635	Ethical and Legal Issues	3
AEL 636	School Finance & Finan. Mgt.	3
AEL 637	Leadership and Social Systems	3
AEL 638	Solving Problems of Practice	3
Advisor-approved BER research course at the 600 level		3
<b>Foundations of Professional Studies:</b>		
(Choose ONE from these ALSDE approved courses or contact advisor for additional approved courses.)		3
BEF 607 or Readings In Soc Of Ed		
BEF 650 Theories of Race and Education		
or		
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp		
or		
BEF 681 Ethics And Education		
<b>Additional Requirements:</b>		

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**

**Class AA Teacher Leader (P-12) Certification**

This course listing applies to those who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. A comprehensive exam is required, and candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Courses taken for Class A certification and credits over six years old cannot be counted toward this degree. The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education.

**Class AA Teacher Leader (P-12)** **Hours**

**Teacher Leader Core:**

CIE 645	Prof Cont: Tchng & Lrng Com	3
AEL 612	Instruc Supv Mentor Trng	3
AEL 633	Leading Adult Learners	3
AEL 635	Ethical and Legal Issues	3
AEL 661	Major Issues and Trends	3
AEL 697	Seminar in Ed Leadership	3

**Problem-based Research:**

BER 660	Eval I:Theory & Practice	3
AEL 638	Solving Problems of Practice	3

**Foundations of Professional Studies:**

(Choose ONE from these ALSDE approved courses or contact advisor for additional approved courses.) 3

- BEF 607 or Readings In Soc Of Ed
- BEF 650 Theories of Race and Education
- or
- BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp
- or
- BEF 681 Ethics And Education

**Additional Requirements/Electives:**

Advisor-approved elective 3

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**

**Transfer Credit**

Courses taken for Class A certification and credits over six years old cannot be counted toward this degree.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

**Comprehensive Exam**

Students must complete a comprehensive assessment during their last semester of coursework. Assessment dates are announced in the first week of each semester. Assessment structure is based on each student's course of study. Students will have a minimum of 14 calendar days to complete the assessment. Submissions are assessed by members of the program committee.

Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.

**Time Limit for Degree Completion**

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

**Additional Academic Requirements**

*Electronic Learning Management System Requirement*

A designated, electronic learning management system is required of all students in programs leading to professional educator certification.

*Survey of Special Education Course*

A survey of special education course is required. An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to a Class A program on July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must take an approved course focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education. A course used to meet this requirement for one level of certification may not be used to meet the requirement for a higher level of certification.

**Academic Misconduct Information**

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

**Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information**

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

**Academic Grievances Information**

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

**Grades and Academic Standing**

Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

**Graduate School Deadlines**

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

**Application for Graduation**

Information on the Application for Graduation.

**Certification**

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

- earn a passing score on a comprehensive assessment covering the content of the program,
- maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 (effective July 1, 2017) on all courses with no grade below a C,
- hold a valid, appropriate, prerequisite Alabama certificate, and
- complete the State Department of Education certification application forms

To be awarded Alabama Class AA Teacher Leader certification, students must:

- earn a passing score on a comprehensive assessment covering the content of the program,
- maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 (effective July 1, 2017) on all courses with no grade below a C, and

- complete the State Department of Education certification application forms

Students must complete the proper application form for Alabama certification. Forms are available online through the Alabama State Department of Education. Applications should be submitted to Student Services in 104 Carmichael Hall at least one semester in advance of graduation. A student who does not apply for professional certification within 60 months after completing the state-approved program will be required to meet the current program. Students who plan to seek employment in other states must secure the proper professional licensure application forms from those states' departments of education.

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Department of Education. In order to maintain compliance with the Alabama Board of Education, admission and program requirements are subject to change. Admission forms and requirements, specific program parameters, departmental policies and contact information can be found at the departmental website.

The associate dean for student services in the College of Education has been designated the teacher certification officer for the University. Students who need information about or assistance with certification should consult the associate dean for student services.

## Class AA School Library Media Specialist (Concentration in School Library Media Specialist) Admissions

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application requires valid, master's level certification as a School Library Media Specialist and at least two full years of full-time acceptable P-12 professional educational work experience. Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

### *Changes to Certification Programs*

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education. In order to maintain compliance with the Alabama Board of Education, admission and program requirements are subject to change. For the most current information, please check with the Office of Student Services and Certification or the Program in School Library Media.

## Curricular Requirements

A minimum of 30 hours of appropriate work beyond the MA degree and a passing score on a comprehensive assessment are required for the educational specialist degree.

This course listing applies to candidates having appropriate prior certification. Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C. At least 15 semester hours of the 30 semester hour total must be at the 600-level. All requirements must be completed during the 6 years preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded. Students should consult with their advisors before registering each semester.

Code and Title	Hours
<b>Instructional Support Area</b>	
Select 12 hours from the following 500-level courses:	12
LS 508 Management Theory and Practice	
LS 520 or Early Child Lit & Story Prog (if not previously completed)	
LS 521 Matl & Serv Children	
LS 541 Youth Programming	
LS 543 Trad. & Digital Storytelling	
LS 544 Cultural Div Prog Youth & Fam *	
LS 580 Outreach to Diverse Population	
LS 581 Universal Design for Info Tech	
LS 583 Social Aspects of Information	
Select 12 hours from the following 600-level courses:	12
AEL 612 Instruc Supv Mentor Trng (or advisor-approved course)	
AEL 697 Seminar in Ed Leadership (or advisor-approved course)	
LS 620 Graphic Novels - Youth	
LS 621 Intercultural Youth Lit *	
LS 622 Collab. through School Libs	
LS 623 School Lib. Admin	
<b>Educational Research</b>	
LS 698 Ind Research School Lib Leader	3
<b>Foundations of Professional Studies</b>	
Select ONE of the following courses:	3
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed *	
BEF 639 Educ Theory And Policy	
BEF 640 Studies History Of Education	
BEF 641 Studies Social Foundatn Educatn	
BEF 650 Theories of Race and Education *	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education *	
Any 600-level BEP course or another advisor-approved foundations course	
<b>Additional requirement</b>	<b>0-3</b>
SPE 500 Intro Exc Childr/Youth (Required ONLY IF a survey of special education course was not completed previously.)	
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30-33</b>

### Footnotes

\* *ALSDE-approved course(s)*

## Transfer Credit

Classes taken for Class A certification and credits over six years old cannot be counted toward this degree.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

## Comprehensive Exam

Students must complete a comprehensive assessment during their last semester of coursework. Assessment dates are announced in the first week of each semester. Assessment structure is based on each student's course of study. Students will have a minimum of 14 calendar days to

complete the assessment. Submissions are assessed by members of the program committee.

Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.

## Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

## Additional Academic Requirements

*Electronic Learning Management System Requirement*

A designated, electronic learning management system is required of all students in programs leading to professional educator certification.

*Survey of Special Education Course*

A survey of special education course is required. An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to a Class A program on July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must take an approved course focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education. A course used to meet this requirement for one level of certification may not be used to meet the requirement for a higher level of certification.

Graduate School information on Additional Academic Requirements.

## Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

## Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

## Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

## Grades and Academic Standing

Candidates must present a GPA of at least 3.50 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a C.

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

## Graduate School Deadlines

Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

## Application for Graduation

Information on the Application for Graduation.

## Certification

To be awarded Alabama Class AA School Library Media Specialist certification, students must:

- earn a passing score on a comprehensive assessment documenting mastery of the curriculum
- maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 on all courses with no grade below a C
- hold valid, prerequisite Alabama Class A School Library Media Specialist certification
- complete an application for certification through the Alabama State Department of Education

Students must complete the proper application form for Alabama certification. Forms are available online through the Alabama State Department of Education. Applications should be submitted to Student Services in 104 Carmichael Hall at least one semester in advance of graduation. A student who does not apply for professional certification within 60 months after completing the state-approved program will be required to meet the current program. Students who plan to seek employment in other states must secure the proper professional licensure application forms from those states' departments of education.

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

The associate dean for student services in the College of Education has been designated the teacher certification officer for the University. Students who need information about or assistance with certification should consult the associate dean for student services.

Accepted graduate students are encouraged to apply for College of Education scholarships and scholarships offered through UA Online.

Graduate School information on Financial Assistance.