The Master of Arts degree in higher education is offered in Tuscaloosa and online (beginning Fall 2017). The Master of Arts is a 36-hour degree program and is designed for students seeking to enter a range of professional careers in postsecondary education. The program follows standards and guidelines from the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education, and it includes courses in foundational studies, professional studies, supervised practice, research and electives. The program partners with staff in student and academic affairs to provide professional development opportunities in and outside of the classroom experience. All master’s students are required to complete an internship.

Two plans are offered for the master’s degree:

Plan I. Candidates for the master’s degree under Plan I must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit in coursework and write a thesis (a minimum of 6 semester hours of thesis research required).

Plan II. Candidates for the master’s degree under Plan II must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit and complete a culminating or “Capstone” experience as described under the Comprehensive Examinations section below. Both plans require a minimum of 18 semester hours in the major subject. With the approval of the major program, the remainder of the coursework may be completed in either the major or a related field.

In some divisions and in many departments of the University, candidates are required to do their work under Plan I. Candidates working under Plan II may be required to participate successfully in seminar or problem courses that will give them an acquaintance with the methods of research and an appreciation of the place and function of original investigation in the field.