INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP, PH.D.

Instructional Leadership – Instructional Technology Concentration (PhD)

The Instructional Leadership PhD with a concentration in Instructional Technology is dedicated to the improvement of professional practice and to the work of school engagement. The PhD prepares individuals to conduct original research and to use current and emerging technologies and instructional strategies to help develop effective learning environments. The degree prepares individuals to assume positions tied to the preparation of researchers in the area of educational technology and to the design of instructional work in school and college environments, as well as to positions in business and industry settings.

Instructional Leadership – Social and Cultural Studies Concentration (PhD)

The Instructional Leadership PhD with a concentration in Social and Cultural Studies is dedicated to the improvement of professional practice and to the work of school engagement. The program aims to develop scholars, researchers, and instructional leaders for schools, colleges, and other educational institutions. The work of the program is guided by the principles of reflective practice, professional growth, democratic action, and individual responsibility. The overarching goal is to prepare theoretically informed leaders with a critical understanding of social and cultural issues necessary to enact insightful organizational, curricular, and pedagogic decisions within their respective institutional settings.

Doctoral Degrees

The PhD in instructional leadership prepares educational leaders, scholar practitioners, policy makers, professors, and researchers who can use —and contribute to—knowledge of learning processes, pedagogy, and the social foundations of schooling. Courses focus on curriculum, professional development, supervision, learning, pedagogy, and questions of diversity and social justice. Throughout, the overarching aim is to develop the skills of inquiry and reflective decision making needed to construct ethical and politically informed judgments that advance education while respecting diversity, honoring difference, and promoting social justice. The PhD offers two concentrations: instructional technology (preparing future researchers, teachers, and corporate trainers in the field of instructional design and e-learning) and social and cultural foundations of education (preparing students for academic positions in higher education or public policy and advocacy groups). Students enrolled in the PhD must select one of the concentrations.

Instructional Leadership, PhD (Instructional Technology) Admissions

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

- An earned master's degree in any field.
- A curriculum vita or resume
- A writing sample.

During the application process, applicants should select the Instructional Technology concentration.

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

Curricular Requirements

When admitted to the program, applicants are assigned a temporary advisor–they may continue to work with this person or select another advisor when they get to know the faculty. Advisors work with students to complete a Plan of Study. This is your degree plan; it specifies the courses you must complete to graduate.

The Instructional Leadership PhD with an Instructional Technology concentration is comprised of 48 hours of coursework and 18 hours of dissertation credit.

Code and Title		Hours
Instructional Technology Courses (21 hours required)		
AIL 601	Prin Instruct Technology	3
AIL 602	Electrnc Instruct Design	3
AIL 604	Distance Technologies	3
AIL 605	Interact Multimedia Proc	3
AIL 608	Div,Inclu,Equ, Access Inst Tec	3
AIL 689	Practicum Instructional Tech	3
AIL 690	Sem Instructional Technology	3
Research Courses (12 hours required)		
BER 540	Statistical Methods In Educ	3
BER Electives: Select 3 additional BER courses with advisor approval. BER courses should include at least one qualitative course and one quantitative course.		9
Foundations Courses (BEF/BEP/out of program) (6 hours required)		**6**
Select courses with advisor. Courses must be outside of the Instructional Technology program.		
Elective Courses		**9**
Elective courses are to be decided with your advisor. They can include AIL 606 and/or AIL 607, research courses, higher education courses, educational leadership courses, or foundational courses.		
Dissertation Research		**18**
AIL 699	Dissertation Research	
Total Hours		**66**

Transfer Credit

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Doctoral Plan of Study Requirement

Graduate School information on the Doctoral Plan of Study.

Comprehensive Exams

The comprehensive examination consists of the development of an electronic portfolio. The portfolio is due at the end of coursework and must be successfully passed before enrolling in dissertation hours (AIL 699). A student does not have to be enrolled in courses when completing the comprehensive examination (i.e., a student might finish courses in the spring, planning to start dissertation hours in the fall and complete the comprehensive examination during the summer).

Graduate School information on the Comprehensive Exam.

Admission to Candidacy Requirements

A student is admitted to candidacy after successfully passing the comprehensive examination electronic portfolio requirement.

Graduate School information on Admission to Candidacy.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

Graduate School information on Continuous Enrollment.

Dissertation Requirements

When a student has completed coursework, they will select a dissertation committee chair and send a request to that professor, who must be in the ELPTS department and a full member of the graduate faculty. If that professor accepts, they will help the student select the additional committee members. It is the student's responsibility to contact the committee members and request that they serve on the student's committee. If the professor requested as the chair does not accept, then the student will make the request of another professor. The student will enroll for dissertation hours under their dissertation committee chair's section following the Graduate School's requirements for continuous enrollment.

Some dissertation chairs in the Instructional Technology program require a prospectus while others do not; it is at the discretion of the dissertation committee chair. The student will work with their committee chair to develop their prospectus and/or proposal and final dissertation document and send it to the other committee members once the chair has approved it. Committee members must have the document two weeks before a meeting. It is the student's responsibility to contact the dissertation committee members to set up a meeting once the chair has approved a meeting and provided times they are available.

Once a student has had their proposal approved by the dissertation committee, they will submit their protocol to IRB. Once a student has successfully defended their final dissertation, they will hire an editor recommended by their chair to check the final document for APA, grammar and UA requirements. When the dissertation chair approves the final document, a student will then submit the document to ProQuest.

Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence information

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Grades and Academic Standing

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.

Instructional Leadership, PhD (Social and Cultural Studies)
Admissions

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

- A Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- A writing sample

An entrance exam is not required for the application to the Instructional Leadership PhD with concentration in Social and Cultural Studies. However, students who have already taken the GRE or MAT and scored at or above the 50th percentile are encouraged to submit their results to supplement their application.

Applicants with grade point averages below 3.0, but not below 2.5, may be considered for Admission with Permission to Continue.

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

Curricular Requirements

The doctoral program requires a minimum of 66 credit hours beyond the master's degree or 84 hours beyond the bachelor's degree. A typical 66-credit hour PhD is comprised of 48 hours of coursework (including a minimum of 18 hours of BEF classes), a comprehensive examination, 18 hours of dissertation credit, and the University residency requirement.

In consultation with their advisors, students are encouraged to seek relevant courses outside the program and College to fulfill both disciplinary and elective needs according to their academic interests and professional goals.

A majority of courses in the program of study must be at the 600 level or higher.

Code and Title		Hours
Required Foundations Courses		
BEF 644	Phil Science Rel Ed Res	3
BEF 667	Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	3
BEF 681	Ethics And Education	3
BEF 690	Social Theory Analysis	3
Additional Foundations Courses		**6**
Students are encouraged to complete at least one course in each of the constituent program disciplines. Pre-approved courses include the following:		
Sociology: BEF 507/607, BEF 641, BEF 650		
History: BEF 503, BEF 640, BEF 653		
Philosophy: BEF 504, BEF 642, BEF 654		
Remaining hours of coursework may come from any disciplinary course not taken from above and/or the following elective courses:		
BEF 534	Multicultural Education (Remaining hours of BEF coursework may come from the courses above and/or any of the following courses:)	
BEF 575	Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 585	Language Politics & Education	

BEF 607	Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 639	Educ Theory And Policy	
AEL 619	Politics Of Education	
AEL 664	Ed Policy/Dynamics of Change	
BEF 669	Curriculum Study Schooling	
BEF 695	Sem Curriculum Leadership	
Elective Courses		**15**
Research Courses (quantitative and/or qualitative research methods)		**15**
Elective hours may be taken from BEF courses not taken. Additionally, students are encouraged to take courses outside the program that inform issues in SCS, as approved by their advisor.		
Dissertation		**18**
AEL 699	Dissertation Research (Continuous enrollment is required until the dissertation is complete. The number of hours will vary depending on the workload of the student and professor.)	
Total Hours		**66**

Transfer Credit

Up to 21 hours of required course work may be transferred if credit meets conditions stated in the Doctoral Degrees section of the Graduate Catalog. Use the Transfer Graduate Credit Form.

Graduate School information on Transfer Credit.

Doctoral Plan of Study Requirement

When admitted to the program you will be assigned a temporary advisor—you may continue to work with this person or select another advisor when you get to know the faculty. One of the first projects, usually completed in the first or second semester, is to form a Program Advisory Committee and complete a Program of Study Form. This is your degree plan; it lays out the courses you must complete in order to graduate.

Graduate School information on the Doctoral Plan of Study.

Comprehensive Exams

Upon completion of coursework or during their last semester of coursework, students may complete a traditional, on-site exam or pursue a publication option to fulfill the exam requirement. Students completing the on-site exam must also complete an oral defense. This requirement will be waived if the student has presented their work at two approved conferences.

Graduate School information on the Comprehensive Exam.

Admission to Candidacy Requirements

Students will be admitted to doctoral candidacy upon successful completion of the comprehensive exam.

Graduate School information on Admission to Candidacy.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

Graduate School information on Continuous Enrollment.

Dissertation Requirements

Students will choose their dissertation chair and, in consultation with their chair, form a 5 member committee. The committee must include one member outside the student's home department.

Proposal. The dissertation proposal normally constitutes the first three chapters of the dissertation study. Typically, this comes after the student has met to discuss a 12-15 page prospectus.

Graduate School information on Dissertation Requirements.

Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Additional Academic Requirements

Graduate School information on Doctoral Residency.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School Information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence information.

Academic Grievances Information

Graduate School information on Academic Grievances.

Grades and Academic Standing

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

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Information on Graduate School Deadlines.

Application for Graduation

Information on the Application for Graduation.

While a GRE score is not required for admission, preference for a limited number of college-funded assistantships is given to applicants for full-time study who take the GRE and achieve a composite score of 300 or better. Other competitive assistantship, fellowship, and scholarship opportunities may be available for applicants without GRE scores.

Students who are interested in or need other assistantships or funding are encouraged to apply for College of Education scholarships (https://education.ua.edu/students/scholarships/) and through the student employment websites (Careers at University of Alabama (ua.edu); Job Search (ua.edu).

Graduate School information on Financial Assistance.