



Instructional Leadership, Ed.S.

About Our Program

The Instructional Leadership program is based on the concept of the teacher/administrator as a developing professional and is designed to prepare transformative leaders committed to educational quality and equity. The program has been approved by the State Board of Education and is designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to improve their professional practice and better develop their capacity to lead. The program prepares students for school-based and systems-based leadership positions in both public and private school systems, as well as other educational organizations.

Coursework and field experiences encourage a comprehensive understanding of advanced leadership practices, inquiry orientations, and collaborative partnerships. Priorities are established to engage students in learning related to school operations; public policy; school law; finance; organizational management; staff development and mentoring; effective use of data; curriculum and instructional support; and fostering a positive school climate and culture. Students will also have the opportunity to facilitate effective leadership strategies to actively support research-based inquiry, analyze current trends in the field, embrace inclusive practices, and implement school improvement.

Admission Requirements

Candidates for program admission must:

Hold a valid Alabama Class A professional educator certificate in Instructional Leadership or one of the other Class A leadership certificate designations [Instructional Leader, Principal, Superintendent, Superintendent-Principal, Educational Administrator, Supervisor (any subject and/or grade level), Administrator of Career and Technical Education] is required.

Candidates must meet **ONE** of the following criteria:

1. Hold a valid Alabama Class A Professional Educator Certificate in Instructional Leadership or a valid Alabama Class A Professional Leadership Certificate earned after completing a redesigned program at an Alabama university.
2. Be currently serving as a superintendent, assistant or associate superintendent, assistant to the superintendent, principal, assistant principal, supervisor (any subject and/or grade level), administrator of career and technical education, coordinator, or evaluator.
3. Document three years of employment in an instructional leadership position for which one of the certificates in Rule 290-3-3-.53.01(2)(b) is proper certification according to the current edition of the *Subject and Personnel Codes* of the Alabama State Department of Education.

Candidates who completed a Class A program other than one approved by the ALSDE on or after September 8, 2005 must pass an interview conducted by a program admission committee to reflect questions of a higher level of knowledge and ability than those used as part of the Class A admission process and submit a portfolio that contains the following:

- Three letters of recommendation.
- Most recent performance appraisals.
- Evidence of ability to lead student achievement.
- Evidence of leadership and management potential.
- Reasons for pursuing the IL Class AA certificate.

Completion Requirements

In order to successfully complete the degree program, students must earn at least a 3.50 grade point average (4.0 scale) for all courses included in their program of study. Field work is a component integrated into the program and students are expected to successfully complete a school improvement project based on best practices in action research.

Course Overview

SPED 507 (3-required if not previously completed)

Instructional Support Area (21 hours required):

- EDL 605: Adv. Fiscal & Organizational Mgmt. for IL (3)
- EDL 606: Leading Learning through Mentoring and PD (3)
- EDL 612: Strengthening Community Relations through Restorative Leadership (3)
- EDL 640: Strategic Planning & Analysis for Current & Evolving Issues in Educational Contexts (3)
- EDL 645: Data Driven Models for Curriculum Development & Assessment (3)
- EDL 648: Leadership for Equity and Social Justice (3)
- EDL 644: Legal & Ethical Dimensions of IL (3)

Support Course (3 hours required):

- ED 621: Instructional Tech. Leadership and Management (3)

Action Research Project (6 hours required):

- EDL 650: Systemic Planning & Design for Sch. Improvement (3)
- EDL 651: Systemic Evaluation of School Improvement (3)

For Additional Information

If you would like to learn more about earning a degree in this degree, please contact us.

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