For many years there has been an alternative for EdD students at the Gadsden Center. See the College of Education section of this Catalog for details.

For other doctoral students, in 2008 the Graduate School worked closely with the Graduate Council so that a department could apply for approval of an Alternative Doctoral Residency (ADR) option for its doctoral students. There is a brief format (available from the Graduate School) for departments to follow in proposing an ADR option. It includes such things as demonstrating that the proposed ADR will assure that ADR doctoral students meet 5 "value constructs" that underpin doctoral education.

When a department or program receives Graduate Council approval to offer an ADR, the ADR provides a second possible way for students in that department or program to meet the residency requirement. The approved ADR does not replace the traditional residency option, which is still available to students who choose it. Whether the student meets doctoral residency through the traditional method or an approved ADR method, dissertation (699) hours may not be used; only non-dissertation graduate hours may be used.

In the specific departments or programs that have received Graduate Council approval to offer an ADR, students choosing the ADR option may be able to include up to a certain number of distance learning hours. The specific number is what was approved in the ADR proposal for that particular department. Contact the department for details. The following have been approved to offer an ADR:

- PhD in Counselor Education
- PhD in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics
- PhD in Curriculum and Instruction
- PhD in Human Performance
- PhD in Instructional Leadership
- Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership with a Concentration in Social and Cultural Studies in Education
- Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership with a Concentration in Instructional Technology

### Transfer of Credit

Acceptable graduate credit, earned in a regionally accredited institution in which the student was enrolled in that institution's graduate school, may be transferred and applied to the requirements for a doctoral degree if approved by the department and the Graduate School. Only credit that was earned during the six-year period (18 fall, spring, and summer semesters) preceding admission to the doctoral program may be considered for transfer. Revalidation (recertification) of credits more than 18 semesters old at the time of admission to a doctoral program is not an option.

Consideration of credit does not guarantee its transfer. Evaluation of credit for transfer will not be made until after the student has enrolled in the Graduate School of The University of Alabama. Credit will not be accepted from any institution at which the student failed to achieve an overall "B" average on all graduate work attempted. Only courses in which a student earned a "B" grade or better may be transferred.

A student completes a **Request for Transfer of Graduate Credit** and submits it to the Graduate School. The student also must ensure that the Graduate School has an official (not faxed or copied) transcript of the credit involved. Students should be aware that planning to transfer a course in the final semester typically will delay commencement by a semester if the UA graduate registrar does not receive official notice of completion of the course by at least 3-4 weeks prior to commencement. It is best to apply for official transfer of credit in the student's first semester of doctoral enrollment; otherwise, the student and advisor will be unsure about the number of course hours needed when submitting the required **Plan of Study**.

With the approval of the student's department and the dean of the Graduate School, up to one-half of the required coursework (exclusive of dissertation research hours) for a doctoral degree may be transferred from another institution if approved by the department.
and the graduate school. Please note that some departments allow fewer than 24 hours of
transfer credit, so be sure to check with your department’s graduate coordinator regarding
your department’s transfer policy.

In some cases, foreign educational credentials may not meet the Graduate School’s criteria
for transfer of credit. It may be necessary for students in this situation to secure an
evaluation of their credentials from World Education Services Inc. (WES), an external
foreign credential evaluation service.

**Time Limits**
All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within **seven years** (21 fall,
spring, and summer semesters) following admission to the doctoral program, with the
following specific exceptions approved by the Graduate Council: psychology, modern
languages and classics, English and political science (**eight years** if entering the doctoral
program with a baccalaureate, not master’s, degree), and eight years from the time of first
registration in PhD courses for students dually enrolled in the PhD program in political science
and the JD program.

Previous graduate credit may be applied to the doctoral degree if the credit was earned during
the six-year period (not seven years) prior to admission to the doctoral program. Such credit
must be identified clearly on the **Outline of PhD Program (Plan of Study)** and requires
Graduate School approval. Only those students graduating within the time limit for their
doctoral program may apply previous graduate credit to the doctoral degree if the credit was
earned during the six-year period prior to admission to the doctoral program.

**Time Limits Extension Request**
Only under compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control a student may petition for
a one-semester extension to the seven-year time limit (or eight-year time limit for the
selected programs noted above). The Graduate Council approved the following steps to
request an extension:

- To begin the process, the **student** petitions the department head. In the petition the
student (a) describes the compelling circumstances, (b) briefly describes the current
status of the dissertation, then (c) includes a timeline showing each important
remaining step in the completion of the dissertation. The last step and date in the
timeline are submission of the successfully defended dissertation on or before the
published final date for submission of dissertations for the requested extension
semester.
- If the **department head** supports the petition, it is forwarded to the college dean.
- If the **college dean** supports the petition, it is sent to the graduate dean.
- If the **graduate dean or his designee** approves the extension, it will not require the
student to validate any out-of-date UA or transfer courses previously approved for the
plan of study.

If a student fails to complete all degree requirements within the time limit for the student’s
doctoral program or within a one-semester extension approved as noted above, the student
will be dropped (suspended) from the doctoral program. To complete a doctoral degree, the
student would have to reapply for admission and be admitted by the department and
Graduate School. Graduate Council policies do not provide the option to revalidate either UA
or transfer courses completed more than six years prior to the date of admission. Thus, a
readmitted student would be able to apply to the new admission only those courses approved
by the department and Graduate School and completed within the 6 years (18 fall, spring,
and summer semesters) prior to the new admission.

**Repeating Courses When Given an Extension**
When requests are made for extensions of the doctoral time limits, and it is deemed that an
out-of-date course is integral to the degree program, the college dean may request
permission of the Graduate School for such a course to be repeated. In this case, both grades
are used in calculation of the GPA.

**Plan of Study**