Educational Administration
Joint Doctorates with UAB

Ph. D. Educational Administration

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and The University of Alabama (UA) offer a joint doctoral program in Educational Leadership with minors available in technology, higher education, and other fields. Courses in the major are offered on the UAB campus. Candidates take some courses in their minor on the UA campus. The expected learning outcomes for the joint doctoral degrees and the doctoral degrees delivered solely by UA are the same.

Expected Learning Outcomes

To assure that candidates acquire the knowledge and skills needed to conduct scholarly investigations; to assure that candidates who desire are prepared to function as university professors; and to provide candidates with the technical, interpersonal, and conceptual skills essential to theory and practice.

Unit Methods of Assessment

Methods of assessment included survey of candidates at the close of their programs, course evaluations, and faculty review of data related to program progress, and faculty review of the curriculum and the nature of courses offered.

Unit Result of Assessment

Candidate surveys indicated a lack of understanding about the distinction between the EdD and PhD degrees. The joint faculties from UA and UAB determined that courses offerings were dated.

Unit Improvements Based on Assessment

During the fall of 2006, the joint faculties (UA/UAB) participated in a series of sessions designed to assess the joint program holistically. A major area of concern was the distinction between the EDD and PHD degrees. The joint faculties adopted these statements to clarify the distinction between these two degree programs: The primary purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program is to prepare candidates for careers in the professoriate. The primary purpose of the Doctor of Education Degree (Ed. D.) degree is to prepare individuals for leadership positions as assistant principals, principals, supervisors, assistant
superintendents, superintendents, state level personnel, and other policy arenas. The joint faculties of UA and UAB agreed to require organizational theory as a doctoral core course, instead of a general course on technology. UA and UAB faculty members formed subcommittees to re-examine the structure of the joint doctoral degree programs (Ph.D./Ed.D.), methods for recruiting candidates, and the research courses required. Preliminary conversations focused on the need to assure that candidates pursuing the Ed.D. degree have the opportunity to engage in problem identification/problem solving with others and that the dissertation focuses on problems of practice. Additional faculty in research methodology were added at UAB to improve course offerings in educational research.