Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership/Class AA Certification

(30 semester hours). Students who earned initial credit toward Class AA professional certification during the Fall 1992 semester or later must enroll in and complete the EdS degree program. Courses used to qualify for a lower-level supporting certificate may not be used again in a higher-level certification program. Also, effective Fall 2010, students who are admitted to the program must (a) present an acceptable GRE or MAT score (see application policy), (b) hold master’s-level certification in Instructional Leader, Principal, Superintendent, Superintendent/Principal, Educational Administrator, Supervisor (any subject and/or grade level), or Administrator of Career and Technical Education and (c) meet one of the following criteria: (1) Class A certification in Instructional Leadership earned after completing a redesigned program at an Alabama university, (2) currently serving as a superintendent, assistant or associate superintendent, principal, assistant principal, supervisor (any subject and/or grade level), administrator of career and technical education, coordinator, or evaluator; or three years of experience in an instructional leadership position. Admission and degree requirements for the Graduate School and for the College of Education are detailed in an earlier section of this catalog. Admission and degree requirements are subject to change and are under revision at the time of publication. Please check with the Office of Student Services & Certification or the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Technology Studies for the most current information.

To be awarded Class AA certification, students must (a) earn a passing score on a comprehensive exam covering the content of the program, (b) maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses with no grade below a "C", (c) complete the State Department of Education certification application forms, and (d) complete the survey of special education course SPE 300 or SPE 500. Please note: classes taken for Class A certification and credits over six years old cannot be applied to this degree. The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Board of Education.

In order to maintain compliance with the Alabama Board of Education, admission and program requirements are subject to change. Admission forms and requirements, specific program parameters, departmental policies, and contact information can be found at the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies website.

Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership/non-certification option

(30 semester hours). The Educational Specialist Program in Educational Leadership (non-certification) provides an option for aspiring educational leaders who are not seeking state administrative certification. It serves individuals who are preparing for organizational leadership positions in a variety of settings with a focus on becoming competent and creative leaders of learning. The program comprises four semesters of intensive coursework including a common introductory course about what it means to be an instructional leader and a culminating course experience that involves students in school-community
partnerships. The cohort design allows students to take their beginning and culminating courses together, but provides options in selecting other coursework.

Additional requirements for the Graduate School (Degree Requirements) and the College of Education (Masters and Professional Certification) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.