



Graduate Programs

Samford University
Orlean Beeson School of Education
Learn to Lead
Lead to Learn

Samford University's Orlean Beeson School of Education faculty and staff seek to ensure quality education in a committed Christian community. Having 14 programs recognized by eight specialized professional associations, the school is home to the highest number of nationally recognized programs in the state of Alabama.

Professors are dedicated to seeing candidates succeed. Small class sizes, talented faculty and close-knit relationships ensure all candidates are prepared to graduate using the tools they have acquired to educate, empower and serve within their respective education systems.

Graduate studies are focused on curriculum and instruction and educational leadership, with numerous master's level programs, one specialist program and one doctoral program. Recertification and nondegree options are also available.

Start your Samford story with us today!



Curriculum and Instruction

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has a variety of programs that will prepare you to take your teaching abilities to the next level. Our courses are designed with the working professional in mind. Courses are offered in blended formats and completely online.

It's time to advance your skills and reignite your passion for teaching. With a wide array of programs from gifted certification to secondary education, we have the right program waiting for you.

Programs available:

- M.S.E. in Elementary Education Fifth-year Nontraditional
- M.S.E. in K-12 Collaborative Special Education Fifth-year Nontraditional
- M.S.E. in Secondary Education Fifth-year Nontraditional
- M.S.E. in Elementary Education
- M.S.E. in Gifted Education
- M.S.E. in Instructional Design and Technology
- M.S.E. in K-12 Collaborative Special Education

Nearly **100%** employment rate for graduates within three months of graduation

12:1
student-to-faculty ratio

100% pass rate on Praxis



Learn to Lead with Passion

M.S.E. in Elementary Education Fifth-year Nontraditional

This full-time program is designed for individuals who have earned a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, but desire to be a certified elementary school teacher. In addition to the ability to earn a master's degree in just one year, candidates will have the opportunity for extensive field experience and practical content application. This fast-track program places a heavy emphasis on clinical experiences and teaching pedagogy.

- Only accelerated program of its kind in the state
- No GRE/MAT required
- Can be completed in just one year

This program is nationally recognized by the National Association of Early Childhood Education and Association of Childhood Education International.

M.S.E. in K-12 Collaborative Special Education Fifth-year Nontraditional

This program prepares candidates who hold a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts but desire to effectively teach and improve the lives of children and youth with special needs. Graduates are eligible for certification to teach children with disabilities in grades K-12.

- Flexible schedules
- Strong relationships
- Small class sizes
- Blend of theoretical concepts with practical hands-on experience
- Strong internship component
- Instruction by award-winning faculty and leaders in the field

100%
of graduates
employed within
three months
of graduation

Outstanding support
and instruction from
a host of veteran
classroom teachers
and professors

M.S.E. in Secondary Education Fifth-year Nontraditional

This 36-credit hour program is designed for individuals who have already earned a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, but desire to be a certified teacher in a specific content area at the secondary level of grades 6-12. This program hold national recognition in three of its degree areas.

- Can be completed in 16-18 months
- No GRE/MAT required
- Candidates can begin teaching before graduating the program
- Accommodates individuals working part- or full-time jobs
- Flexible clinical schedules
- Nearly 100% job placement upon graduation

“I chose Samford because of its excellent academic reputation and because it aligned with my spiritual beliefs. After going through the program, I can say my expectations were met and I gained the tools I needed to fulfill a lifelong dream.” —*Neil Clement '17*

Degree Areas

- Biology**
- English/Language Arts***
- General Science**
- History**
- Math**
- General Social Studies***
- Spanish**
- Physical Education P-12***

**Nationally recognized degree areas.*

M.S.E. in Elementary Education

The Master of Science in Elementary Education with Class A certification is a 30-credit hour online program designed for those who have completed a bachelor's degree in early childhood/elementary education or elementary education and desire to gain knowledge and understanding of pedagogical concepts to impact their practice, the practice of others and learners in the K-6 classroom.

Online courses offer the same quality education as candidates receive in the classroom, but with the flexibility to work around your schedule. In this program, candidates will build strong relationships with classmates and our award-winning faculty in a small cohort setting.

- **Completely online**
- **Can be completed in 16 months**
- **A blend of theoretical concepts with practical, hands-on experience**
- **Degree pays for itself within three to five years of completing the program**

Ranked as a top-tier
online M.S.E. program
by *US News & World Report*

M.S.E. in Gifted Education Preparing teachers to become certified gifted specialists (grades P-12)

This 30-credit hour online/blended program is designed to help teachers understand the unique characteristics of gifted, creative and talented students. Candidates will explore tools that can help gifted students stay engaged and motivated, learn to respond appropriately to the social and intellectual diversity of gifted learners, and provide curriculum and programs that develop talent and enhance critical thinking. Graduates will leave with enhanced teaching skills and will be prepared to empower gifted students through dynamic curriculum that fits their needs.

- **A blend of theoretical concepts with practical, hands-on experience**
- **On-campus and online instruction that features content delivery based on gifted education pedagogy**

This program is nationally recognized by the National Association for Gifted Children/Council for Exceptional Children.

Certification in gifted available for candidates already holding a master's degree in a teaching field from an accredited institution and a Class A certificate from the Alabama State Department of Education.

Complete in
18
months

Practicum semester under the
direction of university faculty
conducted in the candidate's
classroom or school

M.S.E. in Instructional Design and Technology

The master's degree in instructional design and technology is a 30-credit-hour program designed for candidates interested in leading the process by which curriculum and training is developed, implemented and evaluated. Candidates master the skills needed to deliver course work and training in blended and online formats within the fields of education, business, government and health care.

- **Learn the foundations of instructional design, computer applications and distance education**
- **Communicate effectively with graphic designers, HTML experts and course writers**
- **Master concepts of the integration of technology into instructional systems and curriculum**
- **Study the design and production of instructional materials, multimedia and web-based instruction, and assessment**

M.S.E. in K-12 Collaborative Special Education

The master's degree in collaborative special education is a 30-credit-hour program designed for those who have completed a Class B teaching certificate. Candidates gain in-depth knowledge of teaching strategies that positively impact the learning of students with disabilities or students that are considered at-risk. Graduates leave with a Class A certification and certified to work as a K-12 special education educator.

- **Flexible schedules**
- **Focus on evidence-based practice and research**
- **Instruction by award-winning faculty in the field**
- **Hands-on experience**



Educational Leadership

The Department of Educational Leadership has a variety of programs that will prepare you to be a leader in your community. Our faculty is committed to an innovative, customized curriculum that emphasizes real-world experiences because we believe effective leadership is essential in improving schools.

Programs available:

- M.S.E. in Instructional Leadership
- M.S.E. in Educational Leadership: Policy, Organizations and Leadership
- Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership
- Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

“Samford empowered me to engage and learn with the faculty and fellow students to help problem solve and find ways in which to make our educational system better for all students. I’m honored to continue to serve my students, and I’m proud to be a Samford alumnus.” —*John Lowry, Ed.D. '16*



Learn to Lead with Purpose

M.S.E. in Instructional Leadership

The 30-credit hour master's degree program in instructional leadership is designed for teachers with a passion for K-12 education and an unwavering belief in the importance of leadership development. Eligible candidates must hold a Bachelor of Science, Class B certification in education and have completed three years of successful teaching.

- **Master's degree and eligible for certification in 18 months**
- **10-day internship residency**
- **80% of course work directed toward improving instructional practice in schools**

Instructional leadership certification provides candidates with the required credentials to be considered for leadership positions in K-12 schools/systems in Alabama.*

**18-hour certification in instructional leadership eligibility available for candidates holding a master's degree in a teaching field from an accredited college/university and a Class A certificate from the Alabama State Department of Education*

M.S.E. in Educational Leadership: Policy, Organizations and Leadership

This program is designed for professionals interested in working with K-12 educational systems, higher education or nonprofit organizations working to make a difference in schooling. It serves to give a broad insight into the processes and moving parts of a school system—including policy, advocacy and program development. The 30-credit hour program also provides a look into how cultural factors shape student learning. Program instructors believe leadership communication is most effective when those in leadership positions understand the needs of the people around them.

- **Flexible schedules**
- **Strong relationships**
- **Small class sizes**
- **Completed in 18 months**
- **Theoretical concepts blended with hands-on experiences**
- **Instruction by award-winning faculty and leaders in their field**

“This program helped me discover that leadership isn't something you turn on when it's needed. It's something you have to holistically represent in both your personal and professional life.”
—Allen Howell, Assistant Dean of External Relations and Career Development, Cumberland School of Law, current student

Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership

Through blended or face-to-face formats, this 30-credit hour program provides tools and strategies to improve leadership skills. The rigorous curriculum incorporates the Alabama Standards for Instructional Leaders. Candidates must hold a Master of Science and Class A certification in instructional leadership.

- **Faculty experience unlike any other school**
- **No residency required**
- **School system cohort available**
- **Only 10 courses**
- **Scholarships available**

Graduates will gain the knowledge and skills needed to impact student achievement and lead successful school improvement initiatives. For those who desire to develop a career in educational administration or earn a doctoral degree in educational leadership, the 30-hour educational specialist program is the practical next step.

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

The doctoral program is offered in multiple formats: face-to-face, 50/50 blended and predominately online. All formats provide a strong cohort learning environment and small class sizes to capitalize on the instructor-candidate relationship. Candidates are highly sought after and many alumni are currently serving in notable leadership positions.

- **36-credit hours**
- **Faculty have exceptional professional experience**
- **Small class sizes**
- **Strong relationships**
- **Highly reputable program**

“Samford University produces the elite professional.”
—Quentin Lee, Principal, Talladega County Central High School, current student

Complete in
18
 months

Department of Educational Leadership Professional Experience

Instructors

11
current and former
superintendents

4
current and
former assistant
superintendents

1
experienced attorney

Alumni

25
superintendents

70+
assistant
superintendents
and district leaders

80+
principals

*Educational Leadership Full-time Faculty Professional Scholarship
within the last four years.*

Grants
Managed
6

Scholarly
Publications
9

Professional
Presentations
29





Contact us



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