Samford University  •  Orlean Beeson School of Education
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 nine programs recognized by 12 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 students succeed. Small class sizes, talented faculty and close-knit relationships ensure all students 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 non-degree options are also available.

Start your Samford story with us today!
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 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 Special Education

Nearly 100% employment rate for graduates

Nearly 100% pass rate on Praxis

12:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Learn to Lead with Passion
M.S.E. in Elementary Education Fifth-Year Nontraditional
This full-time program is designed for students 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, students 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 Special Education Fifth-Year Nontraditional
This program prepares students 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 certified 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

M.S.E. in Secondary Education Fifth-Year Nontraditional
This 36-credit hour program is designed for students 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.

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

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

100% of graduates employed within three months of 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

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 students receive in the classroom, but with the flexibility to work around your schedule. In this program, students 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 typically pays for itself within three to five years of completing the program
The master’s degree in instructional design and technology is a 30-credit-hour program designed for students interested in leading the process by which curriculum and training is developed, implemented and evaluated. Students 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

Complete in 18 months

Practicum semester under the direction of university faculty conducted in the student’s classroom or school

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.

M.S.E. in Gifted Education
Prepares 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. Students 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.

M.S.E. in 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. Students 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

This program is designed for those who have completed a Class B teaching certificate. Students 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

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 students interested in leading the process by which curriculum and training is developed, implemented and evaluated. Students 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

Complete in 18 months

Practicum semester under the direction of university faculty conducted in the student’s classroom or school

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.
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
- E.D.S. in Instructional Leadership
- E.D.D. in Educational Leadership

“Students leave our educational leadership programs having authentic experiences of what life will be like as an administrator. The level of experience our professors bring to the table is second to none.”

—Jeanie Box, Dean, Orlean Beeson School of Education

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 students 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.

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

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

“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-credit-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-student nurturing 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

“Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

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

Complete in 18 months
Professors

4 former superintendents

2 former assistant superintendents

1 experienced attorney

Alumni

22 superintendents

70+ assistant superintendents and district leaders

80+ principals
Contact us

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Samford.edu/education

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