



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY



Educational Leadership: ADMINISTRATION OF SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM

Program Introduction

OVERVIEW & PHILOSOPHY

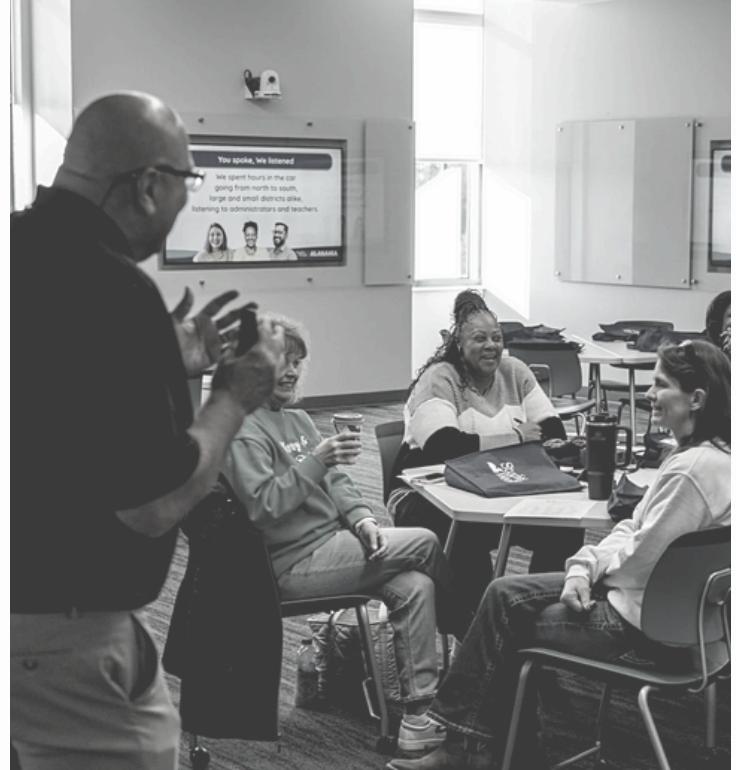
The **Administration of Supervision and Curriculum (ASC)** program is designed for educators who want to lead educational change through ideas, systems thinking, and informed decision-making. ASC prepares students to understand how educational systems function, how decisions are made, and how leadership can be exercised across a wide range of contexts.

Students engage deeply with leadership theory, education policy, organizational systems, and emerging issues such as sustainability and innovation.

The ASC program is well suited for educators and professionals who:

- Want to influence education beyond a single classroom or role
- Are interested in policy, systems-level leadership, or organizational change
- Seek preparation for leadership roles that do not require state certification
- Value academic rigor alongside practical application
- Are considering future doctoral study or research-oriented career

Students come from diverse professional backgrounds, including K-12 education, higher education, nonprofit organizations, and related fields, and share a common interest in advancing education through thoughtful, informed leadership.



A Distinct Approach to Educational Leadership

ASC is built on the belief that the most pressing challenges in education—student wellbeing, innovating with technology, sustainability, and long term success—require leaders who can think beyond immediate issues to deep-level solutions. Students select from focused areas of specialization not offered anywhere else:

- Innovative School Leadership
- Sustainability & Systems Leadership
- Policy & Analytics for Leadership

Designed with Multiple Pathways

The ASC program offers both a Master of Education (M.Ed.) and a Ph.D., allowing students to pursue leadership preparation aligned with their professional goals. The M.Ed. emphasizes applied leadership and professional practice, while the Ph.D. is research-intensive and designed for students seeking to advance knowledge and contribute to scholarship, policy, and systems-level leadership.

SPECIALIZATIONS

The ASC program offers three areas of specialization that allow students to align their academic work with specific leadership interests and career goals.

Innovative School Leadership

For students interested in leading new and emerging models of schooling. Coursework explores innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership in contexts that prioritize mission-driven design, and continuous improvement.

Career Pathways Include:

- Independent or charter school leadership
- Leadership roles in innovative or alternative school models
- Organizational leadership in education startups or nonprofits

Common Work Settings:

Independent schools, charter networks, nonprofit organizations, education startups, and innovative learning environments.

Sustainability & Systems Leadership

Focuses on leading educational systems toward long-term viability and resilience. Students examine how educational organizations can be designed to support sustainable practices, healthy learning, and responsible resource use.

Career Pathways Include:

- Sustainability-focused school or district leadership
- Green school initiatives and environmental education leadership
- Organizational planning and systems transformation roles

Common Work Settings:

K-12 school systems, higher education institutions, education service agencies, nonprofits, and mission-driven organizations.

Leadership Policy & Analytics

Prepare to engage with the political, social, and institutional forces that shape education. Develop skills in policy analysis, design, and implementation. Understand how policy decisions affect educational systems and communities.

Career Pathways Include:

- Education policy analyst or associate
- Research and evaluation roles in think tanks or nonprofits
- Advocacy and government relations positions
- Program and policy roles in foundations and NGOs

Common Work Settings:

Policy organizations, think tanks, nonprofits, foundations, and advocacy groups

DEGREES: M.ED. AND PH.D.

The Administration of Supervision and Curriculum (ASC) program offers two degree pathways designed to support different professional and scholarly goals. Both pathways share a common commitment to rigorous study of educational leadership, systems, and change, while differing in emphasis on professional practice or research and scholarship.

Master of Education (ASC M.Ed.)

The Master of Education in Administration of Supervision and Curriculum is designed for educators seeking applied leadership preparation and professional advancement. The program emphasizes practical skills, organizational decision-making, and real-world problem solving across multiple leadership settings.

Students engage in coursework and experiences aligned with their specialization area, and demonstrate their skills through an individualized capstone project. The M.Ed. is well suited for educators who want to explore new pathways, target specific roles, and apply cutting edge approaches within their organizations.

This is a non-certification program designed for educators pursuing leadership roles that do not require state certification.

Doctor of Philosophy (ASC Ph.D.)

The Ph.D. in Administration of Supervision and Curriculum is a research-intensive program designed for scholars and systems leaders seeking to advance knowledge and contribute as thought leaders in education. The program emphasizes theory development, rigorous research methods, and scholarly inquiry focused on policy, systems, and innovation.

Doctoral students develop deep expertise in research design and analysis while working closely with faculty advisors to pursue original scholarship. Graduates are prepared for careers in higher education, academic research, policy organizations, and senior leadership roles across educational systems.

Individualized and Mentored Pathways

Both degree pathways offer flexible, individualized programs of study aligned with students' interests and goals. Students work closely with faculty advisors to design coursework and experiences that support their professional or scholarly trajectories, ensuring a coherent and purposeful path through the program.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Delivery

Designed for working professionals, all ASC programs are delivered fully online using the Canvas Learning Management System. Courses combine asynchronous learning with synchronous class sessions delivered via Zoom, allowing students to engage deeply with faculty and peers while balancing professional and personal commitments. Zoom meetings are scheduled on weekends roughly once a month. Students typically take two classes per semester.

M.Ed.

The M.Ed. includes seven core courses to build a common foundation and four electives to pursue a specialization. During the program, students develop a capstone project aligned with their specialization area, which is part of their final assessment.

Ph.D.

The Ph.D. is a highly flexible degree designed around a student's research interests. Courses are divided into core, electives, and research methods. Students complete a prospectus at the end of their coursework and a dissertation to graduate. All aspects are one-on-one guided by the student's chosen advisor.

Program	Semester of Admission	Credit Hours	Number of Classes	Number of Semesters
M.Ed	Fall, Spring, and Summer	33	11	4
Ph.D.	Fall	64	19-21	12

EXAMPLE COURSES

The Educational Leadership Program offers more than 30 unique courses. Students take a series of core courses and specialize with additional electives, guided with an advisor.

Theory and Development of Organizations

Schools are systems, not silos. This course examines major theoretical frameworks that guide the structure, behavior, and evolution of educational organizations. Students explore systems-based theories to understand how schools and educational institutions function, adapt, and change over time.

Personnel and Resource Management

This course focuses on leveraging theories of workplace satisfaction to improve the climate, culture, and productivity of our most valued resource: teachers and staff. Students dive into the connection between psychology, behavior, and systems-level interactions that can both ensure resource stewardship and a thriving organization.

Planning and Continuous Improvement

This course focuses on the development and application of frameworks for collecting, analyzing, and using data to support continuous improvement. Students learn how data can inform instructional improvement, organizational decision-making, and strategic planning. Emphasis is placed on translating data into actionable insights that improve learning environments and student outcomes.

Power, Politics, and Policy Formation

Education is rapidly changing. We need to understand--and take charge--of the role politics will play. This course focuses on analysis of social forces, antecedent movements, and political actions affecting education as a field. Studies analyze the political, social, and cognitive forces in the educational policy process, as well as identify the key actors for success and change.



THE ASC STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students in the Administration of Supervision and Curriculum (ASC) program join a learning community focused on thoughtful leadership, intellectual curiosity, and meaningful impact. Across both the M.Ed. and Ph.D. pathways, students engage with faculty who are active scholars and experienced leaders, bringing research and real-world insight into the classroom.

Why ASC?

Students choose ASC because the program:

- Offers focused specializations aligned with emerging leadership pathways
- Built for working professionals with fully online and weekend format
- Supports both applied leadership practice and research-oriented careers
- Prepares graduates to influence educational systems at scale

Learn about the next steps

Official Website



Program Resources



Talk to our Coordinator:

Dr. Andrew Pendola:

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“With the sustainability focus, I began to see how leadership was deeply connected with broader environmental systems. It changed how I see my school and led me to a more integrated and satisfying path for my career” - Janet, ASC M.Ed.

“The professors were amazing. I wanted to be a changemaker but didn't know how. They connected me, showed me the steps. Now I have a voice bigger than the classroom.” - Mikail, ASC Ph.D.



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