

The University of Alabama
Higher Education Administration Program
Dissertation Policy

Hour Requirements:

Ed.D. students take a minimum of 12 dissertation hours. Ph.D. students take a minimum of 24 dissertation hours. A student should ask a faculty member to chair and secure his or her agreement to do so prior to signing up that faculty members section of AHE 699, Dissertation Research. Once a student begins taking dissertation hours, he or she must maintain continuous enrollment in Fall and Spring semesters until the dissertation project is completed and approved by the Graduate School. Students should not enroll for hours during the summer without having gained prior approval from the dissertation chair.

Dissertation Committee:

The dissertation committee consists of five faculty: a dissertation chair and four members. While currently the dissertation chair may be a member of another program in the College of Education, students are encouraged to work with a Higher Education faculty member when possible. At least three members of the committee (can include chair) must be Higher Education Faculty members. At least one member must be from outside of the Department of Educational Leadership, Technology, and Policy Studies.

Dissertation Proposal:

The dissertation proposal generally comprises the first three chapters of the dissertation. The student works carefully with a dissertation chair and submits work to a committee for review. The committee must have 10 working days prior to the proposal defense to review the document. An oral defense follows, with all committee members present to review and critique the proposal. Proposal defenses may be scheduled either in a Fall or Spring semester.

Dissertation Defense:

The dissertation defense comprises all chapters of a dissertation (generally 5). The committee must have 10 working days prior to the dissertation defense to review the document. An oral defense follows, with all committee members present to review and critique the proposal. Proposal defenses may be scheduled either in a Fall or Spring semester.

Please see the Graduate School Dissertation Guide for further information:

<http://graduate.ua.edu/thesis/manual/>