THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Information Item

Creation of a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology
CIP Code: 13.0501

The College of Education at The University of Alabama has developed a rigorous sequence of disciplinary courses facilitated by specialists in Instructional Technology (IT). A doctoral degree in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Instructional Technology is currently offered and a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology has been approved for Fall 2018. The Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology will provide students not enrolled in either the IT master's degree or doctoral concentration with a means to develop IT skills and knowledge applicable to multiple areas of education, including K-12, higher education, government, military, and business. Completion of five courses (15 semester credit hours) will be required.

September 20, 2017

Chancellor C. Ray Hayes
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Chancellor Hayes:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Provost Kevin Whitaker, and Deans Susan Carvalho and Peter Hlebowitsh for the addition of a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology in the College of Education. This Certificate will allow students not enrolled in either the IT master's degree or doctoral concentration with a means to develop IT skills and knowledge applicable to multiple areas of education, including K-12, higher education, government, military and business.

If you approve of this Graduate Certificate, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Board of Trustees for their consideration.

Sincerely,

Stuart R. Bell
President

Enclosures

c: Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Whitaker
    Dean Susan Carvalho
    Dean Peter Hlebowitsh

Form for the Submission of Non-Degree Programs
(Baccalaureate, Graduate Certificates) at Senior Institutions

Institution Name: **The University of Alabama**

Non-Degree Program/Certificate Title: **Instructional Technology**

CIP Code: **13.0501**

Award Level: **Graduate**

1.   Please provide (attach) a Description of the Non-Degree/Certificate program.

2.   Please provide (attach) a list all courses in the Non-Degree/Certificate program

3.   Please provide (attach) a rationale for the program.

_____   9/20/17
Signature of Institution's Authorized Representative   Date

Executive Vice President + Provost
_____
Title

The University of Alabama
_____
Institution

1. *Description*

The Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology provides students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to effectively: 1) integrate technology within their teaching as a means of improving learning outcomes; 2) design and deliver distance and online courses; and 3) lead campus and organizational instructional technology initiatives. The program takes a research-to-practice approach by grounding instructional technology practice in research-based evidence.

2. *List of course requirements*

- Minimum Required Hours: 15.
    - 6 hours of required core coursework
        - AIL 602 Electronic Instructional Design
        - AIL 604 Distance Technologies
    - 3 hours of required elective coursework
        - AIL 690 Seminar in Instructional Technology OR
        - AIL 601 Principles of Instructional Technology
    - 6 hours of elective coursework
        - AIL 600 Integrating Technology in Teaching and Learning
        - AIL 601 Principles of Instructional Technology
        - AIL 603 Telecommunications and Networking
        - AIL 605 Interactive Multimedia Processes
        - AIL 606 Software Technology
        - AIL 607 Readings in Instructional Technology
        - AIL 630 Technology Management
        - AIL 631 Administrative Technologies
        - AIL 690 Seminar in Instructional Technology
- With approval of the Program Coordinator for Instructional Technology, AIL courses taken as part of a student's existing program of study that meet the requirements of the certificate program will be accepted as credit towards the certificate.

3. *Rationale*

The University of Alabama's College of Education has developed a rigorous sequence of disciplinary courses facilitated by specialists in Instructional Technology (IT). A doctoral degree in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Instructional Technology is currently offered, and a Master of Arts in Instructional Technology has been approved by the Board of Trustees and ACHE and will begin enrolling students in Fall 2018. Creating a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Technology will provide students not enrolled in either the IT master's degree or doctoral concentration with a means to develop IT skills and knowledge applicable to multiple areas of education, including K-12, higher education, government, military and business.

Though this certificate is housed in the College of Education, it is anticipated that it will be of interest to an array of graduate students across the university. For example, students pursuing doctoral degrees in Arts and Sciences with plans to work as faculty in higher education would be well-served by a certificate that will distinguish them as applicants who can effectively integrate

technology within their teaching as a means of improving learning outcomes. Similarly, increasing numbers of students in Curriculum and Instruction and other COE departments are interested in this field of study because of its importance to their K-12 professional needs and academic interests. Student interest in instructional technology is further reflected in the frequency with which IT program faculty are asked to serve as instructional technology experts on dissertation committees across the College of Education.

Currently, in Alabama, Auburn University (Technology Educator; Instructional Technology for Teaching) and the University of South Alabama (Instructional Design and Development) offer similar graduate certificate programs. In the SEC, Auburn, Georgia (eLearning Design; Instructional Technology for Teaching), Missouri (Online Educator) and Kentucky (Distance Education) offer similar graduate certificate programs. As Alabama's flagship institution, it is important that The University of Alabama provide comparable learning opportunities to enhance the competitiveness of its graduate students.

All graduate coursework required for the proposed certificate is already offered through the existing ACHE-approved concentration in Instructional Technology in the Instructional Leadership (Ph.D.) program. Students who complete the Certificate Program in Instructional Technology will be provided formal recognition of their expertise in the field. This recognition will communicate to prospective employers that graduates have the skills and academic preparation necessary to teach in Instructional Technology and to lead campus and organizational instructional technology initiatives. This is particularly important given the increasing emphasis at all levels of education on using technology to engage students and improve learning. For example, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standard 1.5 states "*Providers ensure that candidates model and apply technology standards as they design, implement and assess learning experiences to engage students and improve learning; and enrich professional practice.*"