

Alternative Routes to Certification
Or
 Which Route is Right for Me?

Teacher certification is usually achieved by completing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Education. While these are the usual ways to reach your goal, some certification candidates find themselves in a position to be hired before they have completed or even applied to an Education program.

There are a few different routes to teacher certification, but not all routes work for everyone. This chart should help you make sense of the confusion that can be ...teacher certification!

Scenario	Alternative Certification Route
<p>I have a bachelor's degree and I have been hired by a school system.</p>	<p>Emergency Certification: This certification begins and ends with a school system. It is good for two years. It does NOT lead to permanent certification.</p>
<p>I have a bachelor's degree, I have been hired by a school system, and want the quickest route to certification.</p>	<p>Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF): This approach was formerly called the Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate (ABC) Approach. This certification begins with a school system and leads to Class B certification through the ALSDE.</p> <p>With verification of the PCTF, and a letter from the hiring principal or system HR department, a certification candidate is allowed three years to complete four courses: Classroom Management, Evaluation, Special Education, Methods.</p> <p>Certification candidates are not admitted to a program, do not have an advisor, and must apply as an Enrichment student.</p> <p>Courses may be taken at more than one Alabama college or university.</p> <p>After the four courses are completed, the candidate applies to the ALSDE directly for certification.</p>

I have a bachelor's degree, but I have been hired by a school system and I want to receive my Class A certification

Interim Employment Certificate (IEC): This approach was formerly named the Special Alternative Certificate (SAC) Approach. This approach is for certification candidates who are currently in an Alternative A program, or who have been hired by a school system and are admitted unconditionally to an Alternative A program. This approach leads to Class A certification.

Unconditional admission to the Alt A program includes a successful Praxis test score, Teacher Education Program interview, and background check.

With a letter from the hiring principal or system HR department, the UM Certification Officer can complete an SA0 form and submit it to the school system or directly to the ALSDE. This form leads to the IEC. A candidate may teach under three IECs.

The candidate may do student teaching in his or her classroom if the student holds a valid IEC endorsed for the teaching field appropriate to the candidate's teaching assignment and all on the job internship placement requirements are met.