

Certification FAQs for Graduates

Personnel from the office of Teacher Education Services commend you on your hard work and completion of your degree. Shown below are answers to some frequently asked certification questions and we hope this information will help you seamlessly transition to the next phase in your life.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *What may I provide to school systems when applying for employment to verify certification recommendation until I receive my teaching certificate from ALSDE?* The completed verification of completion form will be mailed to the student after commencement and after certification documents have been processed. It is suggested that the student keep the original and provide a copy to each school system. Also, an official transcript verifying a degree is available from the Registrar's Office a few days after graduation.
- *When will I receive my Alabama teacher certificate?* If all certification requirements have been met, typically, ALSDE will issue a certificate 8-10 weeks following commencement and will mail the certificate to the address listed on the certification application. Once a certificate is issued, the certificate information is available online through ALSDE's Certification Search (T-Cert Portal) at <http://tcert.alsde.edu>.
- *Once I receive my Alabama certificate, how long is my teacher certificate valid?* Certificates are valid for five years and all renewal requirements must be met prior to expiration. Renewal forms and information are located on the ALSDE website at <http://www.alsde.edu>.
- *May I apply for teaching positions while I am waiting on my teaching certificate to be issued?* Yes, you are encouraged to apply for teaching positions while you are pending certification. The Teach in Alabama website, <http://web.alsde.edu/home/SchoolInfo/SystemJobVacancies.aspx>, identifies education positions in Alabama for school systems who post their vacancies.
- *What are certificate renewal requirements?* *ALSDE certification renewal information is subject to change. Please visit <http://www.alsde.edu> for current renewal options and information. Shown below are the current certificate renewal requirements.

Professional Educator Certificate Renewal Options*

1. 3 years of teaching experience and 50 hours of professional development
 2. 3 years of teaching experience and 3 semester credit course hours
 3. 3 semester credit course hours and 50 hours of professional development
 4. 6 semester credit course hours
 5. Initial issuance of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBTS) certification
 6. 100 hours of allowable professional development
- *I graduated and did not apply for certification. What are my options?* A student has five years from the graduation date to submit an ALSDE certification application however, current ALSDE and UM requirements apply at the time of certification application.