

Certification FAQs for Graduates

Personnel from the office of Teacher Education Services commend you on your hard work and completion of your degree. Answers to some frequently asked certification questions are below; we hope this information will help you seamlessly transition into a certified teacher.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***While waiting for my certification to post on TCert, what may I provide to school systems when applying for employment to verify certification recommendation?*** A letter verifying graduation and certification recommendation will be emailed to the student the week after graduation. 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 the week after graduation.
- ***When will I receive my Alabama teacher certificate?*** Once the ALSDE receives the certification application, certifications will post to TCert in 8-10 weeks. The original certificate will be mailed to the address listed on the certification application. We try to send out certification applications the week after graduation, but please note that TES processing time may vary in December due to the holiday break and campus closing.
- ***I complete my program in the summer. When will my application be processed?*** The Registrar cannot post degrees until the summer term is complete, so TES must wait until the end of the summer term to submit applications to the ALSDE. If you complete your coursework in May or June, we will be unable to submit until the end of July or the beginning of August, depending on the end of the summer term.
- ***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. If you work in a school system, they may renew your certificate for you or you may be responsible for the renewal application. Check with your school system's HR office for more information.
- ***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.
- ***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.
- ***I graduated and did not meet requirements for certification at that time. What are my options?*** The ALSDE offers options for school systems to hire teachers who graduated with a teaching degree, but did not meet all certification requirements. Hiring principals will be able to give you more information if their school system uses one of the ALSDE options. TES will also submit your certification application once all requirements are met; however, please note that you have five years from your graduation date to apply for certification. After that, current ALSDE and UM requirements will apply.