

Alternative Options for Employed Secondary Educators Seeking Certification

These are the options for candidates seeking initial certification who are currently employed with a school system as a full-time teacher of record.

Candidates who hold a bachelor's degree and are not employed as a full-time teacher of record should pursue the **Alternative Master's in a Teaching Field**.

Criteria	Alternative Masters in a Teaching Field	Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF)	Temporary Special Education Certificate (TSEC)
Eligibility	Completed an undergraduate degree with a 2.0 GPA or better* <i>*Bachelor's GPAs between 2.0 and 2.74 must meet the alternate Praxis score to qualify</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed by an eligible Alabama nonpublic/private school Completed an undergraduate degree with a 2.0 GPA or better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed by an eligible Alabama public school Completed an undergraduate degree with a 2.5 GPA or better
University Admission Requirements** <i>Other items may be required by your school system to begin working. All ALSDE certificates require a background check.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official transcript(s) from all colleges attended Bachelor's GPA 2.75* or above OR Master's GPA 3.0 or above Virtual Teacher Education Program Interview Fingerprint/background clearance <i>*Bachelor's GPAs between 2.0 and 2.74 must meet the alternate Praxis score to qualify</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official transcript(s) from all colleges attended Bachelor's GPA 2.75* or above OR Master's GPA 3.0 or above <i>*Bachelor's GPAs between 2.0 and 2.74 can meet the alternate Praxis score to qualify</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official transcript(s) of all degrees earned Bachelor's GPA 2.5 or above OR Master's GPA 3.0 or above
Required Praxis	Passing score on the specific teaching field area Praxis required at admission	Passing score* on the Praxis content area exam <i>*submitted to the ALSDE prior to Oct. 1 of the first PCTF</i>	Passing score* on the Special Education Praxis <i>*submitted to the ALSDE prior to Oct. 1 of the third PCTF</i>
Program Enrollment & Temporary Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Employment Certificate (IEC) Verification of program enrollment required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) Transcript after completion of courses required; enrollment verification while taking course is not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Special Education Certificate (TSEC) Verification of program enrollment is required
Years Allowed to Completion	Six years for graduate program completion Three years for candidates on IEC certificates	Three years with renewal each year and proof of meeting specific requirements	Three years with renewal each year and proof of meeting specific requirements
Number of UM Hours for Degree/Certificate Completion	Thirty-six (36—fourteen courses)	Ten (10—four courses) + 1 optional free edTPA support course	Fifteen (15—five courses)
Completion of Courses	Students do not have to complete all of the courses at one school, but if a student transfers they may be required to re-take courses	Candidates may take the required courses at different institutions .	Candidates must take the required courses at the same institution .

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Age of Coursework	Age of course work subject to University's transfer and degree completion policies (usually 6 years)	Coursework must be completed within ten years of the first PCTF	Coursework must be completed within ten years of the first TSEC
Completion Criteria or Co-curricular Activities	Passing score on the edTPA Assessment (extensive edTPA support provided by the University)	Passing score on the edTPA Assessment no later than Oct. 1 of the third PCTF (basic edTPA support provided for those that take all four courses at UM). For students who meet experience requirements, they may choose to take the Praxis PLT, instead.	Complete Special Education Professional Learning through PowerSchool.
Funding Your Education	Eligible for federal financial aid and all qualifying UM scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for the reduced bundled tuition rate if all four classes are completed at UM Not eligible for federal financial aid Eligible for some UM scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for the reduced bundled tuition rate if all classes are completed at UM Not eligible for federal financial aid Eligible for some UM scholarships
Certification and Pay Upon Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for recommendation by Montevallo for a Class A Certification Qualifies for master's level pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for recommendation by the student's school system for a Class B certification Qualifies for bachelor's level* pay <i>*Master's level pay can be awarded by the state department if a qualifying masters was previously obtained</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible for recommendation by the student's school system for a Class B certification Qualifies for bachelor's level* pay <i>*Master's level pay can be awarded by the state department if a qualifying masters was previously obtained</i>