**ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, MA**

**Traditional Class A Program**
The department offers a traditional Class A program for those with appropriate prerequisite certification in Elementary Education (or an approved equivalent). This program leads to Alabama Class A certification in Elementary Education (K-6).

**Alternative Class A Program (Nontraditional, Initial Teacher Certification)**
The department offers an Alternative Class A program that does not require prior certification in a teaching field. This program leads to Alabama Class A certification in Elementary Education (K-6) with dual certification in Early Childhood (P-3) and is designed to allow individuals with undergraduate degrees in non-teaching fields to enter the field of education.

**Traditional Class A Program**
**Admission Requirements**
In addition to meeting admission requirements for the Graduate School and the College of Education, applicants must hold appropriate prior certification in Elementary Education (or the approved equivalent). An entrance exam score (at least 300 on the GRE or the 50th percentile or above on the MAT) is needed for regular admission.

Admission requirements for the Graduate School (Admission Criteria) and the College of Education (General Admission) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

**Degree Requirements**
Admission requires appropriate prior certification in Elementary Education (or the approved equivalent). A minimum of 30 hrs of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed.

Course of study includes:
- curriculum and instruction, 6 hrs
- foundations of professional studies, 3 hrs
- educational research, 3 hrs
- teaching field, 12 hrs
- electives (which may be specified), 6 hrs
- If the special education survey course requirement has not been fulfilled, SPE 500 is required.
- If the evaluation of classroom learning requirement has not been fulfilled, the student may be required to complete an additional 3-hour course.

A list of courses that fulfill requirements may be obtained from the program office in 204 Graves Hall. Students may not count more than 6 hours in certain seminar/workshop/problems courses toward the completion of the degree. A maximum of 12 hours of transfer credit, if approved by the student’s adviser, may be applied toward the degree. Students should see their advisors regarding which courses are appropriate for transfer credit.

Additional requirements of the Graduate School and the College of Education are detailed in other sections of this catalog.

**Alternative Class A (Nontraditional, Initial Teacher Certification Program)**
**Admission Requirements**
An entrance exam score (at least 300 on the GRE or the 50th percentile or above on the MAT) is needed for regular admission.

Admission requirements for the Graduate School (Admission Criteria) and the College of Education (General Admission) are detailed in earlier sections of this catalog.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

In addition to meeting admission requirements of the Graduate School, applicants must complete specified undergraduate prerequisite courses. A transcript evaluation is required. Applicants should contact the Office of Student Services & Certification to request a transcript evaluation.

For admission to the Alternative Class A (non-traditional) program in elementary education, applicants must meet the following requirements:
- An appropriate bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 OR a master's degree with a GPA of at least 3.0 is required.
- Applicants must meet current basic skills requirements of the Alabama Educator Certification Assessment Program (AECAP).
- Effective September 1, 2017, passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests of mathematics, reading, and writing are required (or passing scores on all components of the previously accepted Basic Skills assessment before 9/1/17).
- Information about the Praxis Core Tests is available online at [https://www.ets.org/praxis/al/al_teacher_ed](https://www.ets.org/praxis/al/al_teacher_ed) or in the Office of Student Services & Certification (104 Carmichael Hall).
- Fingerprinting/background clearance is required.

**Program Requirements**
A minimum of 36 semester hours of specific graduate credit plus some undergraduate prerequisites are required for the certificate. The program of study must be planned with an advisor. Also, see the Elementary Education Program webpage.