Traditional Class A and Alternative Class A certification programs in Secondary Education (6-12) are available in:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- English Language Arts (comprehensive)
- Foreign Language (French, German, Latin, or Spanish)
- General Science (comprehensive)
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social Science (comprehensive)

Also offered is a master’s degree program leading to Class A certification as a Reading Specialist (P-12).

### 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 (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

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned; see specific program checklists. The program of study must be planned with an advisor.

NOTE: The comprehensive fields of General Science, General Social Science, and English Language Arts require at least one course in two areas within the broader field as follows:

- English Language Arts must include courses from at least two of the following areas: EN, JN, COM, or TH
- General Science must include courses from at least two of the following areas: BSC, CH, PH, or GEO.
- General Social Science must include courses from at least two of the following areas: HY, SOC, PY, PSC, GY, or EC

Candidates moving from the comprehensive fields of general science or general social science to a single teaching field must earn passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment for certification in the single teaching field. For example, a student admitted with Class B General Science certification who completes teaching field coursework only in biology must earn a passing score on the Praxis for biology to earn Class A Biology certification. Individuals who intend to earn Class AA certification in a secondary education field must hold valid Class A certification in the same teaching field as the Class AA program.

### Alternative Class A (Master's-Level), Nontraditional, Initial Teacher Certification Program

The department of Curriculum & Instruction offers Alternative Class A programs that do not require prior certification in a teaching field. These programs lead to Alabama Class A certification in Secondary Education (6-12) and are designed to allow individuals with undergraduate degrees in non-teaching fields to enter the field of education.

#### Admission

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.

Admission to an Alternative Class A program requires admission to the Graduate School and the completion of specified undergraduate prerequisite courses. A transcript evaluation is required. Applicants should contact the Office of Student Services & Certification in 104 Carmichael Hall to request a transcript evaluation.

Applicants must also 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 or in the Office of Student Services & Certification (104 Carmichael Hall).
- Fingerprinting/background clearance is required.

#### Program Requirements

A minimum of 42 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.

#### Postsecondary Instruction

Graduate students in the MA program who have an interest in teaching in postsecondary institutions may take advantage of the program’s flexibility to acquire a maximum of 18 hours in cognate field courses. Students who have this option in mind should coordinate the program of study carefully with their advisors.