

KINESIOLOGY, MA

The Department of Kinesiology offers the Master of Arts degree with coursework in the following:

- exercise science
- general studies in kinesiology
- sport pedagogy (traditional Class A and Alternative Class A certification in physical education)

Admission Requirements

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

Admission Requirements for Physical Education, Traditional Class A Certification

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission applicants must hold appropriate prior certification in physical education (P-12) or the approved equivalent. Also, three recommendations are required. (Applicants to a College of Education program that leads to professional certification must submit references from current and former professors and/or supervisory personnel knowledgeable of the applicant's academic and professional capabilities.) Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

Admission Requirements for Physical Education, Alternative Class A Certification

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission applicants must complete specified undergraduate prerequisite courses.

For admission to the Alternative Class A (non-traditional) program in physical education (sport pedagogy), applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **Transcript evaluation:** Applicants should contact the Office of Student Services & Certification (104 Carmichael Hall) for a transcript evaluation to determine prerequisite courses and other requirements. [NOTE: Coursework and/or a degree from institutions outside the United States shall be substantiated by an evaluation of the foreign credentials through a foreign credential evaluation service recognized by the Alabama State Department of Education. Contact the College's Office of Student Services and Certification for more information.]
- **Degree requirement:** An appropriate bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum overall GPA of 2.50 OR a master's degree with a GPA of at least 3.0 is required.
- **Teaching Field:** Applicants must have an academic content major (or the equivalent) in the teaching field or earn a passing score on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment. The transcript evaluation will determine if an applicant meets the teaching field requirement.
- **Three recommendations:** An applicant to a College of Education program that leads to professional certification must submit references from current and former professors and/or supervisory personnel knowledgeable of the applicant's academic and professional capabilities.

Applicants must also meet the fingerprinting requirement for background clearance.

Admission to the Graduate School is not equivalent to "unconditional admission" to a state-approved educator preparation program.

Admission Requirements for General Studies and Exercise Science

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission applicants must:

- score at least 300 (combined verbal and quantitative) on the GRE
- have a 3.0 cumulative GPA in an undergraduate program

Prospective students who fail to satisfy one of the criteria above may be considered for Admission with Permission to Continue at the discretion of Kinesiology faculty.

Currricular Requirements

Kinesiology, MA (Class A Physical Education)

This course listing applies to those who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. A minimum of 30 hrs of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed. Candidates must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on all coursework in the program, with no grade below a C, and earn passing scores on a comprehensive assessment.

Kinesiology, MA (Class A Physical Education)		Hours
Required courses:		
KIN 510	Tchg & Supervg Elem PE	3
KIN 691	Res Sociology Human Perf	3
Select ONE of these educational research courses:		3
KIN 506 or Techniques of Research		
KIN 566 Evaluation in Kinesiology		
or		
BER 540 Statistical Methods In Educ		
CAT 531	Computer Based Instruction	3
Teaching Field:		
KIN 512	PE Curriculum	3
Three advisor approved 500-600 level courses in Kinesiology Studies		9
Foundations of Professional Studies:		
Select ONE course from these ALSDE approved courses or contact advisor for additional approved courses:		3
BEF 503 or History Of Amer Educn		
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education		
or		
BEF 510 Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed		
or		
BEF 534 Multicultural Education		
or		
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film		
or		
BEF 585 Language Politics & Education		
or		
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed		
or		

BEF 650 Theories of Race and Education or BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp or BEF 681 Ethics And Education	
Practicum:	
KIN 585 Lab & Field Experience	3
Additional Requirements:	
Thesis Research (If KIN 599 is selected, 6 credit hours should be completed.) OR advisor approved 500-600 level courses	6
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	0-3
Total Hours	36-39

Kinesiology, MA (Physical Education, Alternative Class A Certification)

This course listing applies to those who begin this program June 13, 2024, and thereafter. Candidates earning graduate credit prior to this date may elect to utilize this program. Candidates must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on all coursework in the program, with no grade below a C, and earn passing scores on a comprehensive assessment and the appropriate Praxis subject assessment(s).

NOTE: Students must complete ATR 272 First Aid, Safety & CPR or submit certificate of completion of CPR/AED certification, with 2-year validation, through an accredited organization (i.e., American Red Cross, etc.).

Kinesiology, MA (Alternative Class A Physical Education)	Hours
Required Courses:	
KIN 510 Tchg & Supervg Elem PE	3
KIN 512 PE Curriculum	3
CAT 531 Computer Based Instruction	3
Teaching Field:	
KIN 590 Sports/Dance Workshop	6
KIN 595 Workshop Physical Education	6
Foundations of Professional Studies:	
Select ONE course from the ALSDE approved courses below or contact advisor for additional approved courses:	3
BEF 503 or History Of Amer Educn BEF 507 Sociology Of Education or BEF 510 Phil Hist Socl Founds Ed or BEF 534 Multicultural Education or BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film or BEF 585 Language Politics & Education or BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed or BEF 650 Theories of Race and Education or BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp or BEF 681 Ethics And Education	

Full-time Internship:

KIN 585 Lab & Field Experience ¹	6
EDU 500 Internship Seminar	1
Additional Requirements:	
KIN 566 is required if KIN 366 was not taken prior to unconditional admission.	0-3
SPE 500 is required if SPE 300 was not completed prior to unconditional admission.	0-3
Total Hours	31-37

Footnotes

¹ Passing scores on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment for the teaching field are required for internship.

Kinesiology, MA (Exercise Science Focused Area of Study)

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed (or a thesis completed in lieu of a comprehensive exam).

Kinesiology, MA (Exercise Science)	Hours
Required Courses:	
KIN 506 Techniques of Research	3
KIN 507 Lab Techniques in Kinesiology	3
KIN 592 Physiology of Exercise	3
KIN 593 Adv Fit Test Ex Prescript	3
KIN 690 Exercise Health Disease or KIN elective	3
Choose ONE of the following three courses:	3
BER 540 Statistical Methods In Educ	
POPH 522 Biostatistics	
ST 550 Stat Methods In Res I	

Total Hours **18**

Code and Title **Hours**
Additional coursework: Select 12 hours from the courses listed below.

Additional courses may be approved based on advisor's discretion. If KIN 599 Thesis Research (6 hours) is chosen, select TWO additional courses. If KIN 599 Thesis Research is not chosen, select FOUR courses.	
BER 640 Adv Statistical Methods in Ed	3
KIN 585 Lab & Field Experience	3 or 6
KIN 596 Independent Study	1-3
KIN 598 Non-Thesis Research	3
KIN 599 Thesis Research	1-6
KIN 651 Systems Physiology I	3
KIN 652 Systems Physiology II	3
KIN 670 Exercise Biochemistry	3
KIN 692 Sem Exercise Physiology	3
BSC 524 Human Physiology	3
BSC 550 Fundamentals of Biochemistry	3
HHE 515 Adv Foundation Health Promot	3
HHE 520 Theories of Health Behavior	3

HHE 530	Health Promotion Techniques	3
NHM 562	Metabolism of Energy Nutrients	3

Kinesiology, MA (General Studies in Kinesiology Focused Area of Study)

A minimum of 30 hours of course credit must be earned, and a comprehensive exam must be successfully completed (or a thesis completed in lieu of a comprehensive exam).

Kinesiology, MA (General Studies) Hours

Required course:

KIN 506	Techniques of Research	3
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Kinesiology courses: (Choose 27 hours from the following courses. Additional KIN courses may be approved based on the advisor's discretion. See optional elective courses below) 27

Exercise Science Courses:

KIN 507	Lab Techniques in Kinesiology	
KIN 592	Physiology of Exercise	
KIN 593	Adv Fit Test Ex Prescript	
KIN 670	Exercise Biochemistry	
KIN 690	Exercise Health Disease	
KIN 692	Sem Exercise Physiology (1)	
KIN 692	Sem Exercise Physiology (2)	

Sport Pedagogy Courses:

KIN 510	Tchg & Supervg Elem PE	
KIN 512	PE Curriculum	
KIN 538	Adv Adapted Phys Ed.	
KIN 612	Res Phys Ed Teach Education	
KIN 622	Analy Res Teach Phys Ed	
KIN 632	System Observ Phys Educ	
KIN 642	Instruct Design PE High Ed	
KIN 691	Res Sociology Human Perf	

General Courses:

KIN 566	Evaluation in Kinesiology	
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Thesis

KIN 599	Thesis Research (If KIN 599 is selected, 6 credit hours should be completed.)	
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Total Hours 30

Code and Title Hours

Optional elective courses:

Choose up to 12 hours from the following courses as elective credit to fulfill the total 30-hour degree requirement. Additional courses may be approved based on the advisor's discretion. Courses chosen outside the Department of Kinesiology must support the student's main academic interest.

BER 640	Adv Statistical Methods in Ed	3
KIN 585	Lab & Field Experience	3 or 6
KIN 596	Independent Study	1 to 3
KIN 598	Non-Thesis Research	3
KIN 651	Systems Physiology I	3
KIN 652	Systems Physiology II	3
KIN 670	Exercise Biochemistry	3
KIN 692	Sem Exercise Physiology	3
BSC 524	Human Physiology	3

BSC 550	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	3
HHE 515	Adv Foundation Health Promot	3
HHE 520	Theories of Health Behavior	3
HHE 530	Health Promotion Techniques	3
NHM 562	Metabolism of Energy Nutrients	3

Transfer Credit

A maximum of six (6) hours of graduate credit earned in the field of the master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in which the student was enrolled in the graduate school of that university may be considered for transfer and applied toward the requirements for a master's degree in Kinesiology under the following conditions:

- The credit hours must have been completed prior to the student enrolling in the master's program at The University of Alabama.

The credit hours must not have been taken to satisfy the requirements for degrees the student has earned previously. For the traditional Class A Physical Education program, credits used for the previous Class B certification may not be used for this program.

Graduation School information on Transfer Credit.

Accelerated Master's Program

The Accelerated Master's Program (AMP) allows highly motivated students concentrating in Exercise Science to take courses that dual count toward the BS in Kinesiology degree (Exercise Science Concentration) as well as toward an MA in Kinesiology degree (with coursework focusing on Exercise Science). Upon completion of the undergraduate degree, students take additional coursework during year 5 to complete the 30-hour MA degree. Students are not obligated to complete the master's degree and choosing not to complete it will not adversely affect the ability to earn the BS degree.

Information on the Accelerated Master's Program.

Comprehensive Exam

Dates for and Registering to Take Comprehensive Exams

- Master's degree comprehensive examinations for students opting not to write a thesis will be offered twice a year. During the fall semester, they will be offered in the second full week of October. During the spring semester, they will be offered in the second full week of March.
- Only eligible students may take their comprehensive examination, eligibility being dictated by policies provided in the university's Graduate Catalog.
- Students wishing to take comprehensive examinations must inform the departmental representative responsible for scheduling and organizing the comprehensive examination at least four weeks prior to their desired examination date.
- Any retakes of the master's comprehensive examinations will take place in a timely manner to meet Graduate School deadlines. Students can also delay retaking the comprehensive examination to the first opportunity during the following fall or spring semester.

Master's Degree Comprehensive Examination Format and Content

- The master's degree comprehensive examination for students opting not to write a thesis will consist of a morning and afternoon session during one day. Each session is 3 hours in duration.
 - Exercise Science only:* Within 1 month after the written session, an oral examination will follow. At the discretion of each faculty member, the student may receive feedback regarding the written

answers during the 1-month period before the oral follow-up. A single comprehensive examination attempt will comprise a written and oral component. The oral component will be administered by the faculty members who provided questions.

- During each session, students answer questions on relatively narrow topics drawn from specific courses taught within the Department of Kinesiology.
 - *Exercise Science only:* Questions are provided by at least 3 exercise science faculty.
- The departmental representative responsible for scheduling and organizing the master's degree comprehensive examinations will solicit questions from those Kinesiology faculty who have taught graduate courses to each student.
- Students will be asked questions based on coursework from a minimum of 4 courses.
- The departmental representative responsible for scheduling and organizing the master's degree comprehensive examination may provide examples of past questions for students studying for the examination.
- Students will complete the examination by typing within a word processing program on a computer.
- Personal technology including phones, tablets, personal laptop computers, and portable drives will not be permitted in the examination room.
- Each examination session will be monitored by the departmental representative overseeing the examination process.
- On completion of the examination, the departmental representative responsible for its scheduling and organization will distribute students' answers to the faculty who composed individual questions for evaluation, collect all evaluated answers, and inform each student of his or her result (pass or fail) and average score (based on a rubric).
- Students failing the comprehensive examination will be required to rewrite individual questions on which they received a score of 1. They will be permitted only one further attempt to pass and may be required to take additional coursework.
 - *Exercise Science only:* The faculty administering questions will consider both the written and oral components in determining a score on a given attempt. Students failing the first attempt of the examination may be required to wait until the following semester to retake the exam. Additional coursework may be required. Retakes of written portions will only involve question(s) failed, but the oral portion of a retake will be administered by the full committee of faculty who administered questions. The committee will decide the pass/fail outcome of the retake attempt.

The departmental representative responsible for coordinating the master's degree comprehensive examinations will keep a record of and report results to the Graduate School.

Graduate School information on Comprehensive Exams.

Fieldwork/Practicum/Internship Requirements

Clinical Placements

All Class A and Alternative Class A programs require extensive field experiences in diverse settings. The majority of field experiences must occur in P-12 schools, and may require students to observe, assist in the classroom, and teach under the supervision and mentorship of the

classroom teacher and university supervisor. These placements are typically in the greater Tuscaloosa area or surrounding counties, within a 50-70 mile radius, or in the Birmingham area, in order to facilitate supervision of students. With approval, individuals who are employed in positions appropriate to the area of their current program may complete field experiences on the job, but those experiences must be planned with specific purposes and assessment. All clinical placements in the College of Education relating to educator preparation are coordinated through the Office of Clinical Experiences.

Professional Liability

Students enrolled in College of Education courses that require a clinical placement should have professional liability insurance. Professional liability insurance may be purchased through an independent insurer or is available to students who are members of the Student Alabama Education Association (SAEA).

Internship - Alternative Class A

The teaching internship is one of the most important experiences College of Education students have. It is generally regarded as the culminating activity of one's preparation to become a teacher. At The University of Alabama, the internship is a full-semester, full-time assignment and must be taken in residence.

Alternative Class A students must file internship applications with the Office of Clinical Experiences during the semester preceding the semester of the planned internship. The application process begins by submitting an application for internship.

Alternative Class A students may apply to enroll for an internship if they meet the following criteria:

- The student must have completed all courses in the major or majors, or must secure written permission to enroll for an internship from the appropriate department head.
- The student must show proof of a passing score on the appropriate Praxis assessment.
- The student must have achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall.
- The student must have achieved a minimum grade point average of 2.75 in each major, both for University of Alabama courses in each major and for combined University of Alabama courses and transfer courses in each major.
- The student must have achieved a minimum grade point average of 2.75 for professional education coursework.
- The student must have completed all methods courses and appropriate professional coursework with grades of "C" or better.
- The student must have removed from the transcript any grade of incomplete ("I") recorded in required courses; grades of incomplete are treated as grades of "F."

Registration for Internship Credit Hours

Students are required to register for the number of internship credit hours specified by their program. Students enrolled for internship must not expect to be enrolled in other courses while interning. Interns in P-12 programs such as physical education should expect to have a split internship assignment with an elementary and a secondary school.

Summer internships are rarely available and then only to persons who hold an undergraduate degree and certification and have one or two years of successful teaching experience at the level and in the subject for which they are seeking certification (with approval from the department head). In addition, summer internship assignments are allowed only if

an appropriate placement can be secured in the Tuscaloosa area and appropriate supervision can be provided. These conditions also apply to those seeking to update or renew their certification or add an additional endorsement to a current certificate. To apply for a summer internship, students should file an appropriate application with the Office of Clinical Experiences by March 31 of that year.

Plan I - Thesis Process Requirements

Dates for and Registering to Complete the Thesis

- Students wishing to complete a thesis will register for at least 6 credit hours of KIN 599 Thesis Research.
- The student will work with the research advisor to formulate a committee of 3 faculty members, one of whom must be from outside the Department of Kinesiology.
- The thesis proposal meeting will be scheduled by the student at any time of the academic year in conjunction with the thesis chair and committee and following the policies provided in the university's graduate catalog.
- Students can opt to write a "traditional" five-chapter thesis consisting of an introductory chapter, a literature review chapter, a methods chapter, a results chapter, and a conclusions chapter. In this case, the formal proposal will consist of the first three chapters with the methods section being written in the future tense.
- Alternatively, students can opt to write an "article-style" thesis which describes one study to be conducted by the student and written in a format consistent with a reputable journal in the student's subdiscipline of Kinesiology. In this case, the proposal will consist of all sections of the study article prior to the reporting of results and any discussion of or conclusions about the results (e.g., introduction, literature review, theoretical framework, purpose statement, and methods) with the methods written in the future tense.

Thesis Proposal

- The student will provide a copy of his/her final thesis proposal to his/her thesis chair and committee prior to the proposal meeting in conjunction with the policies provided in the university's graduate catalog.
- The student will then make a formal presentation of the proposed thesis research.
- Faculty will then question the student and provide feedback about the presentation and/or written document and content related to the proposed research.
- Once the thesis chair and committee have completed their questioning of the student, the student and all other parties, except for the chair and the committee, will retire from the room in which the proposal is being held. Faculty will then deliberate as to the standard of the proposal.
- IRB approval may be necessary for research involving human subjects. More info here: <https://research.ua.edu/compliance/irb/>

Thesis Defense

- The thesis defense will be scheduled by the student at any time of the academic year in conjunction with his/her thesis chair and committee and following the policies provided in the university's graduate catalog.
- The student will provide a copy of the final thesis to the thesis chair and committee prior to the defense in conjunction with the policies provided in the university's graduate catalog.

- The chair of the student's thesis committee will announce the date, time, and place of the thesis defense to members of the department and College of Education at least one week in advance of the defense.
- The defense will begin with a formal presentation of the thesis research made by the student.
- Faculty will then question the student about the presentation and/or written document and content related to the thesis research.
- Other interested parties attending the thesis defense will also be given an opportunity to question the student about the thesis research.
- Once the thesis chair and committee have completed their questioning of the student, the student and all other parties, except for the chair and the committee, will retire from the room in which the defense is being held. Faculty will then deliberate as to the standard of the thesis defense and score it using a rubric.
- Students failing the thesis defense will be permitted only one further attempt to defend their thesis and may be required to take additional coursework.

Plan II - Non-Thesis Process Requirements

See previous Comprehensive Exam section.

Time Limit for Degree Completion

Graduate School information on Time Limits.

Student Progress Requirements

For the Alternative Class A program in Physical Education, students must be formally admitted to the Alternative Certification Teacher Education Program during their program. Students must meet the minimum qualifications that are expected of candidates entering and completing undergraduate (Class B) certification in the same discipline. This usually means minimum GPA requirements in the core curriculum as well as minimum GPA requirements within the disciplines in which the applicant is seeking certification. Other requirements, such as completion of a writing assessment and other screening associated with undergraduate certification must be completed before formal admission to the alternative teacher education program.

Additional Academic Requirements

For the Alternative Class A program, a passing score on the appropriate Praxis subject assessment is required.

Electronic Learning Management System Requirement

For Physical Education, a designated, electronic learning management system is required of all students in programs leading to professional educator certification.

Academic Misconduct Information

Graduate School information on Academic Misconduct.

Withdrawals and Leave of Absence Information

Graduate School information on Withdrawals and Leave of Absence.

Academic Grievances Information

Information on Academic Grievances.

Grades and Academic Standing

Exercise Science and General Studies require a 3.0 GPA.

As required for traditional Class A and Alternative Class A certification, students in Physical Education programs must earn a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses in the program, with no grade below a "C."

Graduate School information on Grades and Academic Standing.

Graduate School Deadlines

Information on Graduate School Deadline.

Application for Graduation

Information on the Application for Graduation.

Certification

Physical Education (P-12), Traditional Class A and Alternative Class A

The Alabama State Department of Education grants Class A professional educator certification in Physical Education (P-12). To be eligible, candidates must hold appropriate prerequisite certification OR complete an Alternative Class A program and must successfully complete all requirements for the MA degree as described in this catalog.

To be awarded Alabama Class A Physical Education (P-12) certification, students must:

- maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 on all courses with no grade below a C,
- receive a passing score on a comprehensive assessment documenting mastery of the curriculum,
- earn a passing score on the required Praxis subject assessment (Alternative Class A)

According to Alabama regulations, individuals admitted to a Class A program based on a professional educator certificate from another state must earn the prerequisite Alabama certification before applying for Alabama Class A (master's level) certification.

Students must complete the proper application form for Alabama certification. Forms are available online through the Alabama State Department of Education. Applications should be submitted to Student Services in 104 Carmichael Hall during the student's last semester.

A student who does not apply for professional certification within 60 months after completing the state-approved program will be required to meet the current program.

Students who plan to seek employment in other states must secure the proper professional licensure application forms from those states' departments of education. Students planning to teach outside the state of Alabama are responsible for knowledge about professional licensure requirements in those states.

The certification programs of the department have been designed to fulfill current requirements of the Alabama State Department of Education. The state requirements change from time to time and, accordingly, the department's requirements and programs are subject to change.

Information regarding financial assistance can be found here: <https://education.ua.edu/student-resources/financial-assistance/>.