



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**TEACHER EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION OFFICE**  
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### SUMMARY OF THE ALTERNATIVE BACCALAUREATE-LEVEL CERTIFICATE APPROACH

This approach allows a local board of education or the headmaster of a nonpublic school to employ, as teachers, individuals who have earned at least a bachelor's degree from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned. Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates must be requested by the local superintendent or headmaster who wishes to employ the individual as a full-time employee with the majority of the time assignment in the teaching field and at the grade level of the Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate. This approach requires that the individual hold the first, second, and third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates in the same teaching field for three consecutive scholastic years while employed with the same public school system or nonpublic school. Each Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate is issued at the bachelor's degree-level only and is valid for one scholastic year (July 1 to June 30). The application packet must be received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office no later than September 30 of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to be valid. An individual may not be employed for more than three years while holding an Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate, a Special Alternative Certificate, a Preliminary Certificate, or any combination thereof.

### AVAILABLE TEACHING FIELDS FOR ALTERNATIVE BACCALAUREATE-LEVEL CERTIFICATES

GRADES 6-8 or 9-12		GRADES K-8
Biology	Health Education	Chinese
Chemistry	History	Dance
Chinese	Japanese	French
Dance	Latin	German
English	Mathematics	Japanese
English Language Arts	Music: Instrumental or Choral	Latin
French	Physical Education	Music: Instrumental or Choral
General Science	Physics	Physical Education
General Social Science	Russian	Russian
Geography	Spanish	Spanish
German	Theatre	Theatre
	Visual Arts	Visual Arts

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE BACCALAUREATE-LEVEL CERTIFICATE

An individual must:

1. Hold an earned bachelor's or higher degree from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned.
2. Provide official transcripts to the superintendent or headmaster verifying one of the following was completed prior to September 1 of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to be valid:
  - a. An earned bachelor's or higher degree, from a senior institution that was regionally accredited at the time the degree was earned, with a non-education major in the academic area (e.g., mathematics rather than mathematics education); or
  - b. A minimum of 32 semester hours of credit, earned at a college or university that was regionally accredited at the time the credits were earned, including 19 semester hours of earned upper division credit (i.e., the 32/19 requirement) in the academic area. For composite areas, the 32/19 requirement must include credit earned in each component area of the composite as follows:
    - English Language Arts: must include credit earned in English, speech, drama/theatre, journalism, and reading
    - General Social Science: must include credit earned in history, political science, economics, and geography
    - General Science: must include credit earned in biology, chemistry, earth or space science, and physics
3. Meet the requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (see reverse side).
4. Receive background clearance (see Fingerprint Requirements on reverse side).
5. Be recommended by the employing superintendent or headmaster. The application packet must be received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office no later than September 30 of the scholastic year for which the certificate is to be valid.

### COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

No more than twelve semester hours of applicable coursework with a grade of "C" or above must be earned. Coursework shall include the following:

1. Classroom management;
2. The evaluation of teaching and learning;
3. Strategies for teaching special needs students in inclusive settings; and
4. Methods of teaching at the grade level for which certification is sought.

Courses completed by an applicant after issuance of his/her first Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate with a valid period of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, and thereafter must be earned through an Alabama institution. Courses at Alabama institutions that have been approved to meet these requirements may be obtained at internet web site [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu). The Teacher Education and Certification Office shall consider courses earned prior to issuance of the first Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate for meeting the specified coursework requirements.

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These courses must be earned through an Alabama institution with State-approved teacher education programs and the courses must be part of a State-approved teacher education program. The methods course must be earned at an Alabama institution with a State-approved teacher education program at the grade level for which certification is sought. The institution may or may not have a State-approved teacher education program in the area of certification sought by the applicant. The required courses do not have to be taken at the same institution.

Issuance of the second Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate requires verification, on an official transcript, that credit for at least two of the four areas of coursework was earned prior to September 1 of the scholastic year for which the second Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate is to be valid.

Issuance of the third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate requires verification, on an official transcript, that credit for the remaining two areas of coursework was earned prior to September 1 of the scholastic year for which the third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate is to be valid.

### TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Individuals who are applying for Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates must meet the requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTPP) as a precondition for certification.

1. Issuance of the first Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate valid for the 2007-2008 scholastic year requires proof of registration for the two components of the APTTP: (a) basic skills assessments in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing for a test date no later than the May 17, 2008, test date and (b) the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment for a test date no later than the June 14, 2008, test date. Middle school subject assessments do not meet the subject assessment requirement. Required registration dates for the certificate to be valid for the 2008-2009 scholastic year will be disseminated prior to the 2008-2009 scholastic year.
2. Issuance of the second Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate valid for the 2007-2008 scholastic year requires passing scores on the assessments required in the APTTP: (a) basic skills assessments in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing attained no later than the May 17, 2008, test date and (b) the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment attained no later than the June 14, 2008, test date. Issuance of the second Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate *valid for the 2008-2009 scholastic year* requires passing scores on the three basic skills assessments attained *no later than the May 17, 2008*, test date and a passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment attained *no later than the June 14, 2008*, test date. **Scores must be submitted directly from the testing companies to the Teacher Education and Certification Office.**
3. Issuance of the third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate valid for the 2007-2008 scholastic year requires a **current** passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment attained no later than the June 14, 2008, test date by applicants for the following teaching fields only: visual arts, biology, chemistry, general science, general social science, geography, health education, history, Latin, mathematics, choral music, instrumental music, physical education, Spanish, and theatre. **Scores must be submitted directly from the testing company to the Teacher Education and Certification Office.**

Information about the APTTP may be obtained at internet websites [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu), or [www.act.org/alabamaptp](http://www.act.org/alabamaptp) (for basic skills assessments), or [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) (for Praxis II subject assessments), or by contacting the teacher testing staff in the Teacher Education and Certification Office at (334) 242-9983 or [aptp@alsde.edu](mailto:aptp@alsde.edu). Score reports for the basic skills assessments are automatically forwarded by the testing company to the Teacher Education and Certification Office. The code 7020 is used to designate the Teacher Education and Certification Office as a recipient of Praxis II official score reports.

### EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Three full consecutive scholastic years of full-time, satisfactory teaching experience (with the majority of the time assignment having been in the teaching field and at the grade level for which the Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate was issued) with the same school system or nonpublic school while holding the first, second, and third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates in the same teaching field are required for professional educator certification.

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER COMPLETION OF THE ALTERNATIVE BACCALAUREATE-LEVEL CERTIFICATE APPROACH

The individual must make application for the Professional Educator Certificate no later than six months after the expiration date of the third Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate.

1. Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates for Grades 6-8 or 9-12 lead to the bachelor's degree-level Secondary Professional Educator Certificates for Grades 6-12 except for the teaching fields of visual arts, dance, choral music, instrumental music, physical education, and theatre. The listed teaching fields lead to the bachelor's degree-level Elementary-Secondary Professional Educator Certificate for Grades P-12.
2. Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificates for Grades K-8 lead to the bachelor's degree-level Elementary-Secondary Professional Educator Certificates for Grades P-12.

### FINGERPRINT REQUIREMENTS

New applicants as well as applicants for additional certification, upgrades, and renewals who have not been cleared by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the Teacher Education and Certification Office must submit two fingerprint cards, a Release Form, a Background Review Consent Form, and a separate \$49 nonrefundable fingerprint fee.

This summary provides general information and is not all inclusive.

**Applicants must meet any new requirements in effect on the date the application is received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office for the first and subsequent Alternative Certificate or the Professional Educator Certificate. Certification regulations contained in this information sheet are subject to change.**