



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TEACHER EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION OFFICE
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GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING ALABAMA TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Individuals who have completed a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited senior institution may be eligible for Alabama certification through one of the approaches listed below. Those seeking certification in an additional area(s) or at a higher level than that which is currently held in Alabama are advised to contact a regionally accredited senior institution with an approved teacher education program in the area in which certification is desired. The institution's certification officer can provide information concerning requirements.

APPROACHES FOR MEETING CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The approaches for meeting the curriculum requirements for Alabama professional educator certification are outlined below:

A. Alabama Approved Program Approach

Individuals may meet the curriculum requirements for Alabama professional educator certification by completing a State-approved teacher education program with an Alabama institution of higher education in the area in which certification is desired. The institution's certification officer can provide information regarding program requirements.

B. Reciprocal Agreements

Individuals who have graduated from out-of-state regionally accredited senior institutions and/or have been certified in other states may meet curriculum requirements for Alabama professional educator certification through one of the following options provided Alabama offers comparable certification:

1. Completion of a teacher education program at an out-of-state, regionally accredited, senior institution accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).
2. Compliance with the requirements of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification Interstate Agreement (NASDTEC Interstate Agreement).

The certification officer and/or dean of education at the institution attended can provide information regarding the participation of that institution and/or state in one of these agreements and can verify if the program completed meets reciprocity requirements. Verification of completion of such a program must be provided by the institution's certification officer on a specified supplement to the Application for Alabama Certification.

C. Other Approaches

1. Recognition of state-approved programs may be extended to states which are not participants in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement. Verification of completion of such a program must be provided by the institution's certification officer on a specified supplement to the Application for Alabama Certification.
2. Certificate and experience recognition may be available to individuals who hold valid professional certification in other states. The experience requirement is based on that of the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement in effect on the date the application is received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office.
3. Certification based on foreign credentials requires that individuals submit an evaluation of their foreign credits from an approved evaluation agency. Additional information including a list of the approved evaluation agencies may be obtained from the Teacher Education and Certification Office or on the Department's website, www.alsde.edu.
4. Alternative approaches to certification are summarized in the alternative approaches summary sheets available upon request from the Teacher Education and Certification Office or on the Department's website, www.alsde.edu.

TESTING REQUIREMENT

Individuals who are applying on or after January 1, 2003, for the issuance of a Professional Educator Certificate or for alternative certificates (i.e., Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate, Special Alternative Certificate, or Preliminary Certificate) must meet the requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP) as a precondition for issuance of Alabama certification. The APTTP consists of basic skills assessments, effective for applicants on or after January 1, 2003, and subject assessments, effective for applicants on or after April 14, 2005. Applicants who apply between April 14, 2005, and April 13, 2006, will be required to have passed the basic skills assessments and have taken the appropriate subject assessment of the APTTP. Applicants who apply on or after April 14, 2006, will be required to have passed the basic skills assessments and passed the appropriate subject assessment of the APTTP. Information about the APTTP may be obtained at internet websites www.alsde.edu, or www.act.org/alabamapttp (for the basic skills assessments), or www.ets.org/praxis (for the subject assessments), or by contacting the teacher testing staff in the Teacher Education and Certification Office at (334) 242-9935 or apttp@alsde.edu.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION

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 this office, must submit two fingerprint cards, a Release Form, a Background Review Consent Form, and a separate \$49 nonrefundable fingerprint fee in the form of a cashier's check or money order made payable to the Alabama State Department of Education.

An applicant whose certificate has been revoked or suspended in another state must have that certificate reinstated by the originating state before any action will be taken on an application for Alabama certification.

Applicants must meet requirements in effect on the date the application is received in the Teacher Education and Certification Office. Certification regulations contained in this information sheet are subject to change.

No person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or age. Ref: Sec. 1983, Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.; Title VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Sec. 504; Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Equal Pay Act of 1963; Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972: Title IX Coordinator, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2101 or call (334) 242-8444.

THIS SUMMARY PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION AND IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE.