

# **Education Certification Program Requirements**

## **Class B Programs**

1. Effective July 1, 2017, and thereafter, unconditional admission to Class B programs requires a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall, 2.75 in the teaching field, and 2.75 in professional studies.
2. For Class B program completion, a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall, 2.75 in the teaching field, and 2.75 in professional studies with no grade below a C is required for candidates unconditionally admitted on July 1, 2017, and thereafter.
3. Completion of a survey of special education course is (still) required for Class B program completion. State standards do not require credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course for Class B program completion.

## **Class A Programs**

1. State standards do not set a minimum GPA for unconditional admission to a traditional Class A program.
2. Effective July 1, 2017, and thereafter, unconditional admission to an Alternative Class A program requires a bachelor's degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75 overall or a master's or higher degree with a GPA of at least 3.0. This GPA must be documented on the official transcript of the degree granting institution and must be the GPA that was used as the basis for granting the degree, not a GPA that includes post-degree courses.
3. For Class A program completion, a minimum GPA of 3.25 is required for candidates unconditionally admitted to a program July 1, 2017, and thereafter.
4. An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to any Class A program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course (focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education).
5. A candidate who completes a survey of special education course after meeting requirements for unconditional admission to any Class A program on July 1, 2017, and thereafter, is not required to earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course. Once the Class A certificate is issued, the individual would be required to earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course prior to being recommended for an additional Class A certificate in a teaching field or area of instructional support (see Class A, Item 4).
6. A candidate who earns credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course to meet requirements for Class A certification in one teaching field or area of instructional support is not required to earn credit for another ALSDE-approved diversity course to add certification in an additional Class A teaching field or area of instructional support.

7. Two full years of full-time, acceptable professional educational work experience are required for unconditional admission to a Class A program for Library Media, School Counseling, School Psychometry, or Sport Management on July 1, 2017, and thereafter.
8. Unconditional admission to a Class A Instructional Leadership program after August 2010 (still) requires a minimum of three full years (or six full semesters) of full-time, acceptable professional educational work experience in a P-12 setting that must include at least one full year of full-time P-12 classroom teaching experience.
9. If an individual is unconditionally admitted to a Class A program based on a valid bachelor's-level professional educator certification from another state completes a Class A program and subsequently applies for Alabama certification at the Class A level, then the individual must hold valid Alabama Class B certification before applying for Class A certification.
10. **Testing for Certification in School Counseling.** Applicants for initial certification in school counseling through the completion of a Class A Program must meet the Praxis II requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP). See 290-3-3-.47(4).
11. Unconditional admission to a Class A Reading Specialist Program requires the following:
  - a. A valid bachelor's level professional educator certificate in early childhood education, elementary education, or collaborative special education teacher Grades K-6 (*collaborative 6-12 can no longer be used under this option*) and two full years of full-time classroom teaching experience; **or**
  - b. A valid bachelor's level professional educator certificate in any area of education, two full years of full-time classroom teaching experience, and a passing score on the Praxis II Teaching Reading test validated for use in Alabama (*reading courses can no longer be used under this option*).

### **Class AA Programs**

1. State standards do not set a minimum GPA for unconditional admission in Class AA programs.
2. For Class AA program completion, a minimum GPA of 3.50 overall is required for candidates unconditionally admitted on July 1, 2017, and thereafter.
3. An individual who completed a survey of special education course prior to meeting requirements for unconditional admission to any Class AA program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, must earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course (focused primarily on one of the following categories: methods of accommodating instruction to meet the needs of students with exceptionalities in inclusive settings, multicultural education, teaching English language learners, rural education, or urban education).
4. An ALSDE-approved diversity course used for Class A certification may not be used to meet the ALSDE-approved diversity course requirement for Class AA certification.

5. A candidate who completes a survey of special education course after meeting requirements for unconditional admission to any Class AA program on July 1, 2017, and thereafter, is not required to earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course. Once the Class AA certificate is issued, the individual would be required to earn credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course prior to being recommended for an additional Class AA certificate in a teaching field or area of instructional support (see Class AA, Item 3).
6. A candidate who earns credit for an ALSDE-approved diversity course to meet requirements for Class AA certification in one teaching field or area of instructional support is NOT required to earn credit for another ALSDE-approved diversity course to add certification in an additional Class AA teaching field or area of instructional support.
7. A valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate in the same teaching field(s) which was used as a basis for admission to the Class AA program, except for areas of special education as provided for in Rule 290-3-3-.52(2)(a).
8. **Unconditional Admission to a Class AA Program for Teaching Fields:** If an individual is unconditionally admitted to an Alabama Class AA program based on a valid master's-level professional educator certificate in another state, completes a Class AA program, and subsequently applies for Alabama certification at the Class AA level, then the individual must hold at least a valid Class A Professional Educator Certificate before applying for Class AA certification.