

UWA offers the Alternative A Program for those students who have completed a non-teaching degree or for individuals who want to change teaching areas who have at least a 2.50 GPA at the baccalaureate level. This program will enable you to receive a master's degree in education, as well as master's level (Class A) certification.

For those students who do meet the Alabama State Department of Education's minimum required bachelor's degree GPA of 2.50 have three options:

1. The first option is to meet the alternative Praxis II scores. These scores can be found [here](#). For Elementary Education, Early Childhood, and Special Education K-6 and/or Special Education 6-12, must have 12 hours of undergraduate level courses in English Language Arts in addition to the Praxis II score.
2. The second option is to pursue a second bachelor's degree and major in your desired educational field. We will evaluate your transcripts, and use as many of your undergraduate basic curriculum courses as possible. Once it is determined which credit can be transferred to UWA, you will then take any remaining basic courses, the professional education courses and your teaching field courses. Please keep in mind that the majority of undergraduate courses are day time classes.
3. The third option is to obtain a non-certification master's degree with a minimum of a 3.00 GPA. This degree can be obtained at UWA or another university (**See note below). Upon completion of the non-certification master's degree you should have the required 3.00 GPA to be eligible to apply to the Alternative A program. It is important that if you choose this option, you must contact me to discuss an appropriate non-certification master's degree, so as not to interfere with your future plans of pursuing the Alternative A Program. There are some courses if taken prior to admission to UWA's Alternative A Program that will make you not eligible for admission. Please e-mail me at tcraft@uwa.edu.

Upon completion of the non-certification master's degree program, you can then apply to UWA's Alternative A Program. The following admission requirements to the Alternative A Program and the Teacher Education Program are as follows (**see note below):

1. At least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average of 2.50 on a four-point scale as posted by the degree-granting college or university at the time of graduation or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA in order to be admitted.
2. Fingerprint clearance on file with the ALSDE. Please go to [this link](#) for fingerprint registration and payment.
4. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis II exam for the field of study (please see the Praxis II information at the link below). The only exception is the Elementary Education, Early Childhood, Special Education K-6 and 6-12 program. In this program, students must submit a passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects test and must have 12 hours of undergraduate level courses in English Language Arts. For testing and registration information click [here](#).

UWA students are not allowed to take any classes in the Alternative A Program until they have been unconditionally admitted. According to the Alabama State Department of Education Memorandum dated 5/04/11," If an institution admits an individual to an Alternative Class A program based on a master's degree GPA, courses used to meet the master's degree requirement may not be doubled counted to meet requirements for completion of an Alternative Class A program." Due to this mandate, as I mentioned above, I do not recommend students to pursue a similar non-certification master's degree as they plan to pursue in

the Alternative A Program, since courses taken in the first master's cannot be repeated and UWA may not offer enough courses in which two degrees can be completed in the same field. **

****Please keep in mind that these requirements for admission to the Alternative A Program may change at any time based on mandates by the Alabama State Department of Education. Without notification, these changes may prevent them from pursuing the Alternative A Program.**