

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 **2.75 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 2.75 have two options:

1. The first 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.
2. The second 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 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. **Beginning Fall 2016 you will be required to have a bachelor's degree with a 2.75 GPA or higher or a master's degree with a 3.00 GPA or higher.**
2. Fingerprint clearance on file with the ALSDE. Please go to [this link](#) for fingerprint registration and payment.
3. A passing score on the appropriate Praxis II exam for the field of study (please see the Praxis II below). The only exception is the 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. For testing and registration information click [here](#).

4. A passing score on the Basic Skills Assessment Test portion of the Alabama Educator Certification Testing Program approved by the Alabama State Board of Education. For testing and registration information, click [here](#).
5. Completion of at least one undergraduate course in each of the four subject areas of Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English Language Arts. These courses are verified upon review of all official transcripts once your application is complete with the Office of Admissions.

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.**