

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

ALTERNATIVE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Alternative Master's Certification Program is an innovative approach to teacher education designed for individuals with baccalaureate degrees in certifiable fields who have not completed requirements for certification to teach. The main purpose of the program is to prepare outstanding individuals to become successful classroom teachers. Completion of the Alternative Master's Program leads to a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree and equivalent Alabama certification. Upon securing a teaching position, a graduate of the Alternative Master's Program will enter the teaching profession at Class A certification salary level.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Curriculum and Teaching is the largest department in the College of Education at Auburn University. Currently, 1000 undergraduate students and over 250 graduate students are enrolled in programs that prepare teachers and leaders in 12 areas of specialization. Each program emphasizes the analysis and refinement of curriculum theories and teaching strategies that are appropriate for that area of specialization. In order to satisfy state certification requirements, the Department and local school systems cooperate to provide appropriate laboratory experience at all levels of preparation. All faculty members have earned doctorates in their respective teaching fields. All of the Department's graduate programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Agriscience Education
- Business Education
- Secondary English Language Arts Education
- Secondary Foreign Language Education – French
- Secondary Foreign Language Education – Spanish
- Secondary Mathematics Education
- Secondary Science Education – Biology
- Secondary Science Education – Chemistry
- Secondary Science Education – General Science
- Secondary Science Education – Physics

To gain full admission to the Alternative Master's Program in Curriculum and Teaching, students must have earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent in one of the following certification areas:

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|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Agriculture | • English | • Mathematics |
| • Biology | • French | • Spanish |
| • Business | • Gen. Science | • Physics |
| • Chemistry | | |

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Admission to graduate programs in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching is competitive in respect to past achievement, scholarship potential, and professionalism. *The Department makes admissions decisions based on the compatibility of the applicant's goals with the departmental resources, the availability of spaces for new students, and a holistic evaluation of the applicant's potential for success in the program.*

To be considered for full admission to graduate programs in the Department, students must complete all components of the application and meet Departmental graduate application and admission requirements as listed below. They must also meet Alabama State Department of Education admission requirements.

• **Complete an E-Application and pay application fee** at www.grad.auburn.edu (click "Apply Online" and E-Application). Create your own Login ID and PIN at "First Time User Account Creation." Complete all sections, choosing a "Planned Course of Study" from "Education."

• **Request all colleges or universities previously attended to send one official transcript** to Auburn University Graduate School, 106 Hargis Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Transcripts must show proof of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in an appropriate academic field; competitive grade point averages, both cumulative and in the area of specialization; and less than 12 hours of undergraduate course deficiencies in the major field. Typically, students admitted to master's degree programs in the Department have cumulative undergraduate grade point averages above 2.75 and excellent grades in their respective areas of specialization. Students who do not have a degree in a certification field but have a minor or a concentration in a certification field may complete specified undergraduate course work equivalent to a major in that field and then apply for admission to the Alternative Master's Program.

• **Take the Graduate Record Examination General Test** (see www.gre.org) and have scores sent to Auburn University. (Auburn University's ETS institution code is 1005.) Typically, students admitted to master's degree programs in the Department have GRE Verbal Subtest scores above 400 and Quantitative Subtest scores above 400. Scores more than five years old cannot be used unless the applicant has completed a graduate program at an accredited institution since taking the test and can provide official copies of the scores. Computer versions of the test are administered several times monthly at more than 200 sites in the United States, including Prometric Testing Centers in Montgomery and Birmingham, AL. Domestic Alternative Master's applicants to certain program areas who have not taken the GRE but who have satisfactory grade point averages (2.75 undergraduate and 3.0 graduate) may seek provisional admission status for

one semester. However, they must submit satisfactory GRE scores and be fully admitted before enrolling for a second semester or qualifying for financial aid.

• **Send at least three letters of recommendation that address professional and academic qualifications.** Ask references to send their letters to Dr. Nancy H. Barry, Head, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, 5040 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849. Hard copies of letters with original signatures are required for admission.

• **Send your brief current résumé** to Dr. Nancy H. Barry (see address above).

• Respond to any requests for additional information that **MAY be requested later** for review and approval by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee, Department Head, and faculty members in the applicant's area of specialization.

• Additionally, **international applicants** must send scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. (Auburn University's ETS institution code is 1005.) International applicants must submit scores of at least 550 on the TOEFL paper version (pBT), 213 on the computer version (cBT), and 79 on the Internet version (iBT) with scores of at least 16 on the listening, reading, speaking, and writing components of the iBT.

• Additionally, **international applicants** must demonstrate (a) full financial sponsorship, (b) proof of a comprehensive medical insurance plan and (c) submit a \$60 fee and Official Statement of Financing for International Students Form at http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html

Alabama State Department of Education admission requirements include the following.

• A bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average (GPA) overall of 2.50 documented on the official transcript from the degree-granting institution.

• Completed general studies courses, including at least one course in each of the following areas: humanities, social science, science, and mathematics.

• An academic major in the teaching field, or if an academic major is not on the official transcript, 32 semester hours appropriate to the teaching field including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit.

• Additionally, **applicants who wish to teach English** must have coursework in English (including grammar and reading), speech, drama/theatre, and journalism.

• Additionally, **applicants who wish to teach General Science** must have coursework in biology, chemistry, earth/space science, and physics.

(Note that individuals seeking Special Alternative Certification for school employment must meet any additional conditions set by the Alabama State Department of Education. Completion of all state department requirements constitutes unconditional admission to the program.)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

All graduate applications must be completed by April 1 for Summer Semester admission, July 1 for Fall Semester admission, and November 1 for Spring Semester admission. Entrance into the alternative master's degree certification program in Secondary Science is highly encouraged for the summer term. Applications not complete by the deadline dates will be considered for the next available admission date.

INQUIRING ABOUT APPLICATION STATUS

- Check email at the address you provided in your E-Application for notices from currppo@auburn.edu.
- Check status of admission results at www.grad.auburn.edu (click "Apply Online" and E-Application) using the Login ID and PIN you created at application.
- Check postal mail at the address you provided in your E-Application for advising information from the Department of Curriculum and Teaching if you are admitted.

TYPICAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY

The Alternative Master's Program requires 42-54 semester hours of coursework, depending upon the area of specialization. Most full-time students without undergraduate deficiencies can complete their programs in four semesters. The programs require undergraduate and graduate coursework in the following areas:

- Teaching field (e.g., Mathematics, English, or Spanish)
- Instructional methods, curriculum development, and evaluation in the teaching field
- Educational psychology and assessment
- Reading and writing in the content areas
- Classroom management

Program coordinators can provide program checklists for their respective areas of specialization. (See contact information for program coordinators below.)

Students must arrange and complete a five-day preteaching experience in a public school prior to the internship and will work with students in schools during the degree program for at least 150 hours.

Students will complete a one-semester supervised internship.

At the end of their respective programs, students take comprehensive written examinations based upon their teaching field courses and their courses in professional education. They submit internship portfolios containing selected pieces of work completed for courses in their respective areas of specialization and documents related to their internships. Students must be registered for at least one hour of credit or for GRAD-7000 (Clearing Registration) during the semester in which they take their examinations.

Students are required to take and make a passing score on the state certification APPTP tests (Alabama Basic Skills Exam and PRAXIS II) prior to the completion of their programs. (See Professional Education Services <http://education.auburn.edu/edstudents/teachered>.)

ADVISING

Upon admission, every student is assigned an academic adviser who will orient the student to the program and assist the student in preparing a plan of study for the Graduate School, registering for courses each semester, and arranging for the master's degree examination.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Current tuition and fees are listed on the University's web page. Because graduate assistants in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching typically supervise interns, they must already be certified teachers; therefore, assistantships are rarely available to students in the Alternative Master's Program. Additional information regarding grants and loans is available from Student Financial Services http://www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/sfs/

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

To obtain information about the Department's graduate programs, please review the following Web sites:

- www.auburn.edu From Auburn University's home page, you can access general information about the university. You can access the current University Bulletin from this site.
- www.grad.auburn.edu The Graduate School's page contains an introduction to the Graduate School and provides several methods to access the University Bulletin, to request additional information, and to obtain information about specific departments. Prospective students can complete an electronic application at this site.
- www.auburn.edu/auteach The Department of Curriculum and Teaching's web site contains information about its programs; application requirements and procedures; faculty and their teaching, research, and outreach interests; and contact information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact one of the faculty members listed below or address inquiries to the Department of Curriculum and Teaching.

For General Information about Graduate Studies

- Department Head - Dr. Nancy H. Barry
nhb0002@auburn.edu
- Graduate Program Officer - Dr. Leane Skinner
currppo@auburn.edu

For Information about an Area of Specialization

- Agriscience Education - Dr. Gordon Patterson
pattegd@auburn.edu
- Business Education - Dr. Leane Skinner
skinnal@auburn.edu
- English Language Arts Education - Dr. Alyson Whyte
whyteal@auburn.edu
- Foreign Language Education - Dr. Sue Barry
barrmys@auburn.edu
- Mathematics Education - Dr. Marilyn Strutchens
strutme@auburn.edu
- Science Education - Dr. Melody Russell
russeml@auburn.edu

Address general inquiries about admissions to the Graduate School, Hargis Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5122 (telephone 334-844-4700 or e-mail gradadm@auburn.edu).

ALTERNATIVE MASTER'S DEGREE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Department of
Curriculum and Teaching

College of Education
Auburn University

5040 Haley Center
Auburn University, AL 36849

334-844-4434 (Phone)
334-844-6789 (FAX)

<http://www.auburn.edu/auteach>



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