

Admission Requirements

Education Specialist (Ed.S.)

Class AA Certification

Physical Education, K-12

Contact Information:

For inquiries about the application process, please contact Ms. Sha'Niethia Johnson Wright (araccot@uab.edu; 205-934-7530).

For academic advising and information, please contact Dr. Sandra Sims (sksims@uab.edu; 205-996-2721).

Important Links

[Kinesiology program website](#)

[Physical Education Class AA certification checklist*](#)

*No more than five program courses can be taken on this checklist prior to unconditional admission to your certification degree program.

[UAB School of Education: Application Deadlines](#)

[Graduate School: Frequently-Asked Questions](#)

Information Session for Prospective EdS Students

School of Education, Education Building

Physical Location: 900 14th Street South, Birmingham, AL

Arrange for an appointment with Dr. Sims: sksims@uab.edu

Requirements for Application to the UAB Graduate School

These requirements must be completed before you can apply to the UAB Graduate School. The requirements listed below are designed to ensure that you are meeting the Graduate School's admission requirements.

- Complete a degree-seeking application for admission to the Graduate School via [Apply Yourself](#). In the section entitled INTENDED DEGREE, select the following from a drop-down menu: ***Education-Kinesiology (EdS)***. You must submit this application and pay the application fee (Domestic @ \$45.00; International @ \$60.00) before the deadline for your anticipated term of enrollment: November 1st for admission to the spring term; April 1st for admission to summer, and July 1st for admission to fall.
- Contact three individuals for providing a recommendation, tell them that they will be receiving a recommendation form by email from the UAB Graduate School, and ask them if they could kindly complete this form online and return it in a timely manner. Include their names and emails on your degree-seeking application. When you submit your degree-seeking application, an electronic recommendation form will automatically be sent to your referees. If your referees prefer to mail a recommendation letter, they should mail it to the following address: **UAB School of Education, Office of Student Services, 1720 2nd Avenue South-EB 232, Birmingham, AL 35294-1250.**
- Request that one (1) official transcript be sent by each issuing institution to the UAB Graduate School: **UAB Graduate School, 1720 2nd Avenue South, LHL G03, Birmingham, AL 35294-0013.** You MUST request an official transcript from each college/university that you attended, even if you took only one course at that institution, even if you attended that institution concurrently with high school, and even if your grade from that institution is on the transcript from the institution where you graduated. The transcripts received by the Graduate School will be used for admission purposes. *NOTE: If you attended UAB, you do **not** need to request a transcript from UAB.*
- Request that one (1) official transcript be sent by each issuing institution (including UAB) to the UAB School of Education: **UAB School of Education, Office of Student Services, 1720 2nd Avenue South-EB 232, Birmingham, AL 35294-1250.** You MUST request an official transcript from each college/university that you attended, even if you took only one course at that institution, even if you attended that institution concurrently with high school, and even if your grade from that institution is on the transcript from the institution where you graduated. When you apply for teacher certification from the Alabama State Department of Education, the UAB School of Education will send these transcripts to the ALSDE.
- UAB requires several immunizations of first-time graduate students. To learn more about this requirement, please [click here](#).

Requirements for Unconditional Admission to UAB's Education Specialist Program

These requirements must be completed before you apply to UAB's Graduate School. The requirements listed below are designed to ensure that you are meeting certification requirements stipulated by the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE).

- Criminal Background Clearance.** Information about the ALSDE's required background clearance can be found by [clicking here](#). You can access the status of your background clearance on the ALSDE's certification portal by clicking [here](#). If your background clearance is not posted at the bottom of this ALSDE portal, you should have your fingerprints taken. Do this by going to www.cogentid.com/AL and indicate that you need this background clearance for the purpose of teacher certification. After the ALSDE has received your background clearance, they will mail you a suitability letter. You do not need to send your suitability letter to UAB because the School of Education will verify your background clearance on the ALSDE's certification portal.

- ❑ **Prerequisite certification**
You must hold valid Class A certification issued by the Alabama State Department of Education. Based on your program of study, your Class A certification must be in Physical Education. Another option for meeting this requirement is for you to hold Class B certification in Physical Education and to hold Class A Certification in English to Speakers of Other Languages. NOTE: If you are from another state and hold an equivalent master's level certification in that state, please contact our School of Education's Office of Student Services (205-934-7530) and request additional information.
- ❑ **Admission Exam: MAT or GRE**
 - Access information about the Miller's Analogy Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) by [clicking here](#)
 - Have official test score sent to UAB from the MAT (institute code: UAB=1017) or GRE (institute code: UAB= 1856)
 - Obtain a score of at least 388 on the MAT or at least 290 on the GRE (with a minimum of 130 on each section)
- ❑ **GPA of at least 3.25 unrounded.** On the master's degree transcript that was used for earning Class A teacher certification.
- ❑ **International Students Only:**
 - Have your official TOEFL (or IELTS) test score submitted to UAB (TOEFL Institute Code = 1856) at this address: **UAB Graduate School, 1720 2nd Avenue South, LHL G03, Birmingham, AL 35294-0013.**
 - Submit Financial Affidavit of Support: **UAB Graduate School, 1720 2nd Avenue South, LHL G03, Birmingham, AL 35294-0013.**
 - Meet all requirements in UAB's booklet for international students: <https://www.uab.edu/students/international>
 - If you have attended a university or college outside of the United States, you must have a course-by-course transcript evaluation done by [World Education Services \(WES\)](#) or [Educational Credential Evaluators \(ECE\)](#) and have it mailed to: **UAB School of Education, Office of Student Services, 1720 2nd Avenue South-EB 232, Birmingham, AL 35294-1250.**

Requirements to be met during your First Term of Enrollment at UAB

After you have met all application and admission requirements, you must meet some additional requirements during your first term of enrollment at UAB. Please note that failure to meet these first-term enrollment requirements may mean that you cannot continue in your certification program. The first-term enrollment requirements in your degree program are as follows:

- ❑ **Task Stream.** At the beginning of your first term of enrollment, you must purchase a Task Stream account by [clicking here](#). You are required to have an active Task Stream account throughout your enrollment in this program. Approximate Cost: \$25 per semester or \$42 per year. This account will be used by you for creating and developing your electronic teacher education portfolio and also by School of Education faculty for scoring your key assessments.
- ❑ **Courses.** During your first semester, you must successfully complete courses identified by your certification program. You should seek advising from your faculty advisor as to which courses you need to take. To register for courses, go to the [Blazer Net Portal](#).
- ❑ **Non-native speakers of English:** If English is not your native language, you must take the Graduate School's Oral and Written Language Assessments. You must take the Graduate School's Academic English courses until reaching an acceptable level of academic English.

Important Notes

- ❑ Please be aware that teacher certification requirements are subject to change. For example, the program certification checklist linked to this document may change depending upon the date you are admitted to your graduate degree program. Although UAB's School of Education faculty and staff make every effort to keep this information current, it is possible that certain requirements may change. **Therefore, please make every effort to contact UAB faculty and staff at the top of this document to make sure you are receiving the most current information.**
- ❑ Please remember that it is your responsibility to seek advisement each term. By doing so, you will be assured of taking courses in a logical sequence so that you may graduate in a timely manner. Additionally, frequent advisement will keep you abreast of any changes in state certification requirements. *NOTE: Although advisors and program directors give advice, it is ultimately the responsibility of each candidate to ensure adequate progress towards his/her degree and the corresponding certification.*
- ❑ To comply with UAB regulations, candidates must access their UAB email account on a regular basis and they must always use their UAB email address for all official communication. If you encounter difficulties with your email address, please immediately contact ASK-IT (996-5555) or [click here](#).