Have you thought about becoming a teacher but didn’t major in education? By enrolling in the Alternative MA in Gifted and Talented from The University of Alabama, you can earn the credentials you need to impact the lives of these accomplished children.

Because of your diverse background, you bring credentials to the classroom that stand out among the crowd. In the state of Alabama, most P-12 Gifted and Talented programs offered in public schools are typically enrichment-based so many of our Alternative MA students hold undergraduate degrees in theatre, dance, music, art, foreign language or science.

Coursework for this 48-credit-hour master’s degree program is delivered in a variety of formats including weekend, online and web-assisted classes. The web-assisted format combines face-to-face and online learning reducing the number of times you must travel to campus. Meeting on campus provides you with the opportunity to network with peers and faculty.

You will be equipped to understand the complex differentiations that gifted students experience in learning, growth and development and their unique challenges. You will also be able help identify children who demonstrate an aptitude to excel but lack the advanced vocabulary skills necessary to achieve high test scores.

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

During your final summer semester, you and your classmates will participate in a four-week intensive summer enrichment workshop where you will work with children enrolled in gifted programs in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding counties. You will have the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills you have acquired through previous coursework to evaluate students’ needs, and plan and deliver engaging thematic instruction—all the while under the mentorship of your instructors and master teachers from around the state.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to the Alternative MA in Special Education Gifted and Talent program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree in an appropriate field from an accredited university
- A passing score on each subtest of the Basic Skills Assessments of the Alabama Educator Certification Testing

Contact the Office of Student Services & Certification in the College of Education at (205) 348-6073 for a transcript evaluation to determine prerequisite courses to be completed prior to admission into the program and for information about testing requirements.

An application package consists of the following:

- Graduate School application
- Official test scores - a minimum of 300 on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the revised GRE (a score of 1000 if taken prior to August 2011) or a score no lower than the 50th percentile on the MAT
- Statement of purpose (completed online)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Official transcripts from all institutions attended

Students are admitted every semester.

CURRICULUM

Students must complete the following deficiency courses prior to admission to the Teacher Education Program:

- EDU 200
- BEF 362
- HD 101
- SPE 304

Required Courses

- SPE 581: Psychology of Gifted and Talented Children and Youth
- SPE 582: Teaching the Gifted and Talented
- SPE 583: Creative Problem Solving Seminar
- SPE 584: Special Populations in Gifted Education
- SPE 585: Teaching Thinking Skills: Integrating Programs
- SPE 589: Internship in Gifted and Talented - Summer Enrichment Workshop
- SPE 501: Diagnosis and Assessment of Exceptional Children and Youth
- SPE 500: Introduction to Exceptional Children and Youth
- BER 550: Evaluation of Classroom Learning
- CAT 531: Computer-Based Instructional Technologies
- CRD 512: Improvement of Reading in Secondary Schools
- SPE 586: Social Components of Talent Development
- SPE 587: Addressing Individual Needs and Talents in the Classroom

Electives

- SPE 606: Topical Seminar in Special Education: Bibliotherapy for Exceptional Students - suggested course; other electives must be approved by advisor.

Total = 48 credit hours