



## Program Information Packet

### FYNT Graduate Programs The Fifth-Year Nontraditional Secondary Programs

#### Unconditional Graduate Admission Requirements:

##### 1. Degree Requirements

- Earned bachelors degree from a regionally accredited college or university, or
- Earned bachelors degree from a non-regionally accredited institution and an earned masters or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution, and a passing score on the prescribed Praxis II subject assessment test if one is prescribed

Prospective students must submit two official transcripts from any college or university attended to:

Ashley Cacioppo, Director of Graduate Admissions  
119 Propst Hall  
Samford University  
800 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35229

- ##### 2. Evaluation of undergraduate transcript by the certification officer to validate an undergraduate GPA of 2.8 on a 4.0 scale in each of the following areas:
- Overall coursework
  - Major courses – all courses in this area must have been passed with a grade of C- or higher.

##### 3. Teaching Field requirements:

###### Biology

- An academic major in Biology on your official transcript or
- 32 semester hours in Biology including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit or
- Passing score on Praxis 0235

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### English/Language Arts

- An academic major in an area included in English/Language Arts – e.g., English, Speech, Drama/Theatre, and Journalism – and at least one course in each of the other listed areas of English/Language Arts or
- 32 semester hours in an area of English/Language Arts including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit. At a minimum, coursework must include courses in Literature, Grammar, Reading skills, Writing, Speech, Theatre, and Print or Broadcast Journalism or
- Passing score on Praxis 0041

### General Science

- An academic major in an area included in the sciences – e.g., biology, chemistry, Earth or space science, or physics with at least one course in each of the other listed areas of general science or
- 32 semester hours in an area of the sciences including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit and at least one course in each of the following areas: Biology, chemistry, Earth or space science or physics or
- Passing score on Praxis 0435

### History

- An academic major in History on your official transcript or
- 32 semester hours in History including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit or
- Passing score on Praxis 0941

### Math

- An academic major in Math on your official transcript or
- 32 semester hours in Math including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit or
- Passing score on Praxis 0061

### Social Science

- An academic major in an area included in the social studies – e.g., economics, geography, history, and political science – and at least one course in each of the other listed areas of Social Studies or
- 32 semester hours in an area of Social Studies including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit. At a minimum, coursework must include courses in economics, geography, history, and political science or
- Passing score on Praxis 0081

### Spanish

- An academic major in Spanish on your official transcript or
- 32 semester hours in Spanish including at least 19 semester hours of upper-division credit or
- Passing score on Praxis 0191

4. Completion of application.
5. Completion of a 3-5 page (double-spaced) paper discussing a current issue in secondary education. Paper must include at least one resource and be in APA style with a reference page.
6. 1 page statement of purpose.
7. Interview with the FYNT Admissions Committee (or members thereof).
8. Three letters of recommendation from professors, employers, colleagues, friends, or clergy addressed to Ashley Cacioppo.
9. Score on \*Graduate Record Examination (GRE) of 287 (new 2011 grading scale combined score of verbal and quantitative. or 800 (combined verbal and quantitative on old GRE); this requirement includes a passing score on the writing assessment portion of the GRE with a 3.0 or higher, or score of 396 on the Miller Analogy Test (MAT). See the section on testing information for more details.
10. Suitability letter from the Alabama State Department of Education confirming background clearance by the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a background check.

**Summary of Unconditional Graduate Admission Standards:**

1. Two official transcripts from any college or university attended.
2. Minimum GPA of 2.8/4.0 on ALL college work attempted and in the MAJOR area.
3. Teaching Field Requirements met (may be completed by passing the Praxis II).
4. Completion of application.
5. Three letters of recommendation.
6. Passing score on the MAT or GRE (including passing score on GRE writing sample).
7. Suitability letter confirming background clearance check.
8. Satisfactory score on 3-5 page paper on a current issue in secondary education.
9. Submission of the Statement of Purpose.

When each student's file is complete, he or she will be presented to the Graduate Admission Committee for review and formal admission. Please note that submission of an application to the Graduate Program does not signify admission to any program. **Upon acceptance to the program, a \$25 fee\* will be required to process your application by the Director of Graduate Admissions Office.** This fee is nonrefundable. \*Fee is waived for Samford University graduates.

The program accommodates those working part or full-time, including those currently teaching with provisional certificates, and to this end, courses are offered in late afternoon, evening, or Saturdays. Since observation in a variety of classroom settings is a vital component of teacher education, teacher candidates enrolled in the program are required to complete a minimum of 20-65 observation hours per term (this does not apply to content coursework), depending upon the course schedule. Students who work full-time must be willing to use leave or vacation time to complete this assigned classroom setting. It is possible, when teaching with a provisional certificate, to obtain permission to overlap one's regular teaching assignment with the internship experience.

The program is composed of 36 credit hours (depending upon prospective student's transcript) plus any pre-requisite credit hours necessary for admission. Of this total of 36 hours, 24 hours are in professional courses, including the internship, and 12 are in the student's chosen content area or teaching field. If candidates pace themselves to advance with their cohort group, the program can be completed in 16-18 months. All students must complete all parts of the program within five years (3 years if currently teaching under a Special Alternative Certificate).

### **Disclaimer**

These standards are for the 2011 and 2012 program only and are subject to change for future programs. If you decide to delay your application process, please be sure to contact the Ashley Cacioppo about possible changes in our admittance requirements.

Samford University does not allow students who are currently in the ABC (Alternative Baccalaureate Certification) Program to enroll in education courses.

### **General Information:**

1. Program Checklist

Students must follow the checklist in order to earn the degree and teacher certification they are pursuing.

2. Test Information

- a. **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)**

The GRE is offered through Prometric Testing Center in Homewood, Alabama. The phone number is (205) 945-0155. The GRE is also offered at

Birmingham-Southern, and information may be obtained from their Testing Information Hotline at 205-226-4846.

**b. Miller Analogy Test (MAT)**

The MAT is administered at UAB and information may be obtained by calling 205-934-3704. The MAT is also administered at Birmingham-Southern by appointment. Information may be obtained from their Testing Information Hotline at 205-226-4846.

**c. Praxis II Test**

Registration information can be found at the following site: [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis). Pertinent information about the testing program is available on the listed internet site.

**3. Financial Information**

Scholarships are available for the FYNT program. Please contact Ashley Cacioppo for more information.

Information regarding loans can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office at 205-726-2905 or by emailing Elizabeth Gambrell at [eagambre@samford.edu](mailto:eagambre@samford.edu). For further information regarding tuition, please call 205-726-2566 or go to [www.samford.edu](http://www.samford.edu).

**Program Completion Requirements:**

**1. Completion of Coursework**

Students in all graduate programs must ensure that they take the correct courses, according to the checklist, and earn the correct number of semester hours for completing the degree. When more than one certification area is earned, all required coursework for both certificates must be taken. The same courses do not count toward two certificates on different levels, e.g., Class A and Class AA.

**2. Grade Point Average Requirements**

A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained throughout all of the graduate program and until the completion of the program. If your GPA drops below a 3.0, you will be required to withdraw from the program and cannot enter the student teaching experience.

### 3. Comprehensive Exit Examination

Students must successfully complete a comprehensive exit examination prior to student teaching. This exam will be administered the semester prior to your student teaching.

**You must be fingerprinted by the ABI and the FBI before you will be allowed to go into the schools. You must register online prior to arriving at the fingerprint location.**

#### **Step 1: Online Registration** – [www.cogentid.com/AL](http://www.cogentid.com/AL) or [www.cogentid.com/alabama](http://www.cogentid.com/alabama)

- DO NOT use [www.cogentid.com/al](http://www.cogentid.com/al)
- Applicants are responsible for their own registration. Information incorrectly entered during the registration and submitted during fingerprinting CANNOT be corrected and it is the responsibility of the applicants. Changes to incorrect registration data MAY be corrected online or by telephone prior to fingerprint submission.
- Register for the state of Alabama
- Make sure you select "Admission to a Teacher Education Program/Internship".

#### **Step 2: Payment** – Fingerprint fee is \$54.15

- Applicants may pay online during registration using a debit or credit card.
- No cash, credit card, or business checks are accepted at the fingerprint location.
- Applicants may pay at the fingerprint site with a money order or cashier's check. Payments must be made out to Cogent Systems

#### **Step 3: Fingerprinting** – Primary Service location address

- ATC Healthcare Services Inc  
100 Shadow Wood Park Suite 200 A  
Birmingham, AL 35244
- You may visit ATC Healthcare Services during the following business hours in order to get your fingerprints taken:  
Monday – Friday 9:00 to 4:30 (Closed noon to 1:00)
- You may call this number for detailed directions to the location **205-879-9381**
- Directions to ATC Healthcare Services:  
12.1 miles from Samford – 19 minutes
  - Turn Right on Lakeshore (1.5 miles)
  - Take I-65 South (8 miles)
  - Take Exit 247 Valleydale Road, and turn left
  - Travel 1.5 miles and turn left on Shadow Wood Park

#### **Step 4: Primary Documentation**

- Cogent Services requires current, valid and unexpired picture identification documents. As a primary form of picture ID, a state-issued driver's license may be presented by an applicant while being fingerprinted

**Step 5:** Proof of Fingerprinting

- You will receive a letter of suitability from the Alabama State Department of Education in the mail. I **MUST** have a copy of this documentation for your file folder before you are allowed to begin clinicals.

**Step 6:** Questions

- Ashley Cacioppo 205-726-2947

# Praxis II

| Major                 | Test # | Test Name  | Minimum Score |
|-----------------------|--------|--|---------------|
| English Language Arts | 0041   | English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge | 151           |
| Social Studies        | 0081   | Social Studies: Content Knowledge                                | 153           |
| History               | 0941   | World and United States History: Content Knowledge               | 143           |
| Mathematics           | 0061   | Mathematics: Content Knowledge                                   | 126           |
| General Science       | 0435   | General Science: Content Knowledge                               | 147           |
| Biology               | 0235   | Biology: Content Knowledge                                       | 143           |
| *Spanish              | 0191   | Spanish: Content Knowledge                                       | 147           |

\*Spanish exams are only given at select times throughout the year. Please consult the website for more information on these specific testing dates.

More information and study guides are available here: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/al/requirements>

Samford University's Code is **1721**

Alabama State Department of Education's Code is **7020**

Register online for one of the following test dates at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) or by phone at 1.800.772.9476

Current cost for 1<sup>st</sup> time test takers: \$130.00

| Registration Deadline                                       | Test Date        | Approximate Score Receipt Date |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| December 15, 2011<br>(late registration: December 22, 2011) | January 14, 2012 | February 7, 2012               |
| February 9, 2012<br>(late registration: February 16, 2012)  | March 10, 2012   | April 3, 2012                  |
| March 29, 2012<br>(Late registration: April 5, 2012)        | April 28, 2012   | May 22, 2012                   |
| May 10, 2012<br>(late registration: May 17, 2012)           | June 9, 2012     | August 14, 2012                |

**Official score reports must be submitted directly from the testing service to the Teacher Education and Certification Office of the Alabama State Department of Education AND Samford University.**

**Master of Science in Education**  
**Alternative A Fifth Year Certification Program in Secondary Education**  
 Spring Enrollment

The Master of Science in Education Alternative A Fifth Year Certification Program in Secondary Education is designed for graduates of an accredited university who already have a BA or BS degree with a certifiable major in a core teaching field and desire to earn a Class A teaching certificate to teach in their content area at the secondary level of education (grades 6-12). The program accommodates those working part or full-time, including those currently teaching with provisional certificates, and to this end, courses are offered in the late afternoon, evening, or Saturdays (science options only). Since observation in a variety of classroom settings is a vital component of teacher education, teacher candidates enrolled in the program are required to complete a minimum of 10-65 observation hours per term, depending upon their course schedule. Students who work full-time must be willing to use leave or vacation time to complete this requirement. At the end of the program, the internship semester requires a full-day commitment to an assigned classroom setting. It is possible, when teaching with a provisional certificate, to obtain permission to overlap one's regular teaching assignment with the internship experience.

The program is composed of 36 credit hours. Of this total of 36 hours, 24 hours are in professional courses, including the internship, and 12 are in the student's chosen content area or teaching field. If candidates pace themselves to advance with their cohort group, the program can be completed in 18 months. All students must complete all parts of the program within five years. The curriculum and schedule are as follows:

**Spring**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Content field course   | 3-4* |
| EDUC 550: Foundations and Issues<br>(with 20 required clinical experience hours)             | 2    |
| EDUC 556: Methods, Management and Technology<br>(with 45 required clinical experience hours) | 3    |

**Summer I**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Content field course   | 3-4* |
| EDUC 559: Exceptional Learners and Collaboration<br>(with 20 required clinical experience hours) | 3    |

**Summer 2**

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Content field course | 3-4* |
|----------------------|------|

**Fall**

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Content field course  | 3-4* |
| EDUC 563: Curriculum, Reading and Assessment<br>(with 45 required clinical experience hours)  | 3    |
| EDUC 569-573: Teaching Secondary English, Mathematics, Science,<br>Social Science, or Spanish<br>(with 10 required clinical experience hours) | 2    |

**Jan Term**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| EDUC 553: Student Development and Learning<br>(with 20 required clinical experience hours) | 2 |
|--|---|

**Spring**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| EDUC 567: The Professional Secondary Teacher | 3 |
| EDUC 591: Internship for Secondary Education | 6 |

**TOTAL = 36 credit hrs.**

**\*Content field courses are scheduled by the Howard College of Arts & Sciences in collaboration with Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies and may be different for each cognate area. A total of 12 hours in the content field is required and may be taken at any time as offered during the program.**