

Frequently Asked Questions



1. How long will it take to complete the Alternative Masters Program?

The program is composed of 36 credit hours. If candidates advance with their cohort, the program can be completed in 18 months.

2. When are classes taught?

Classes in the Alternative Masters Program are taught at night (with the exception of Biology and General Science which also offer Saturday courses).

3. Is it possible to work full time while completing the Alternative Masters Program?

- In addition to class meetings, students will also be required to meet clinical experience requirements which will take place during the regular public/private school day. Hours vary by course and semester. Students who work full-time must be willing to use leave or vacation time to complete this assigned classroom setting. (See the program schedule for more information about clinical experience requirements by semester.)
- Candidates will spend the final semester in a school setting for the internship experience. If teaching with a provisional certificate, it is possible to obtain permission to overlap one's regular teaching assignment with the internship experience
- Students who work full time must be willing to use leave or vacation time to complete this requirement

4. My undergraduate/graduate degree is not in one of the teaching areas that Samford offers, but I would like to obtain a masters degree in one of the following areas: general science, biology, English Language Arts, mathematics, Spanish, history or social sciences. May I still apply to the program?

Yes. If you are interested in gaining a masters in secondary education in one of the teaching areas that Samford offers, you may take (and pass) the Praxis II content knowledge exam in your chosen area as a way to meet our admission requirements. (Please see the Praxis II page in the information packet for details about testing dates, required scores and test codes.)

5. Does Samford require prerequisite coursework before I can start the program?

No. Samford does not require students to take prerequisite coursework in order to apply to our program. (See number 4 above). Samford University allows prospective students to take (and pass) the Praxis II content knowledge test to meet admission requirements.

6. How much does it cost to attend Samford University?

*Each graduate credit hour is \$655.00. The program is 36 hours. Total tuition costs for the program is \$23,580.00**. This does not include administration fees, book fees or other miscellaneous fees that may be incurred throughout the program. *Please see number 7 about scholarships and financial aid available to students beginning with the July, 2012 term!

*Please note that since Samford University does not require prerequisite coursework and the program can be completed within 18 months, it is possible to save both time and money with our FYNT program.

**This total dollar amount is based on the 2011-2012 tuition rate. If changes are made to the credit hour rate, the total cost of the program will also change.

7. Are there scholarships and financial aid programs available?

Yes, students may apply for scholarship funds that will be awarded for each academic year. Amounts will vary based on student achievement and need.

In addition, beginning with the July, 2012 term, all students enrolled in the Secondary FYNT program will receive a scholarship equivalent to \$200.00 per credit hour for each enrolled course. As an example, a student who is enrolled in a four hour English course would pay $655 \times 4 (2,620)$ minus $200 \times 4 (800) = \$1,820$. Scholarship funds are deposited into the student's account based on the credit hour enrollment.

Certain concentration areas such as mathematics, general science and biology may also have information on outside scholarships that support teacher education programs in these areas. Please check with the Director of FYNT Admissions for more information about these opportunities.

Students may also apply for federal financial aid through Samford University. After five years of successful teaching, borrowers may apply for Public Service Employees Loan Forgiveness that may reduce up to \$5,000 worth of debt from your loans. More information can be found by visiting the following website:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/StaffordLoanBrochure.pdf>