



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Early Childhood, Elementary, Reading, Secondary, ESOL, & Art Programs Comprehensive Exam Overview

The Graduate School at the University of South Alabama requires all students receiving a Master's or Educational Specialist degree to pass a comprehensive exam. Students enrolled in certification only programs must also successfully complete the comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam may be repeated no more than twice. Students who do not successfully complete the comprehensive exam will be dismissed from the Graduate School.

Students must sign up for the comprehensive exam, by the posted deadline, through the Office of Graduate Studies. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Deadlines are posted and can be viewed on the Comprehensive Exams link on the CEPS Graduate School webpage (<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/>).

Students can obtain an application for the comprehensive exam from the Comprehensive Exams link on the CEPS Graduate School webpage (<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/>). Only students who have applied for graduation and are completing their degree requirements in the current semester are allowed to apply for the comprehensive exam. A copy of the student's graduation checklist must accompany the student's application. It is a good idea to sign up for the comprehensive exam at the same time that you apply for graduation. Thus, you will be signing up for the exam the semester before you will take it. This should ensure that the deadline is met.

Traditional and Alternative Masters programs have different exam requirements. The requirements for each program are discussed below.

Elementary, Early Childhood, Secondary, ESOL, and Art Alternative Masters Programs

During the Internship semester, alternative masters students must successfully complete the EdTPA portfolio assessment to achieve certification. This assessment will serve as the comprehensive exam for alternative masters students in the Elementary and Early Childhood programs, Secondary programs, and ESOL and Art programs. Students will receive a pass/fail grade on this assessment.

Students should follow these steps:

1. Apply for graduation during the semester prior to graduation.
2. Sign up for comprehensive exam during the semester prior to graduation.
3. Complete EdTPA during the final semester of the program (Internship).

Elementary, Early Childhood, Secondary, ESOL, and Art Traditional Masters Programs



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During the final semester of the program, traditional masters students will complete an online exam containing essay questions based on the coursework completed throughout the program.

The rubrics can be found in the Related Links section of the following website:

<https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/comps.html>

To get started, students should follow these steps:

1. Apply for graduation during the semester prior to graduation.
2. Sign up for comprehensive exam during the semester prior to graduation.
3. Register for EDU 500, the 0-credit course where your exam will be taken.
4. Purchase LiveText, a learning outcomes assessment system that will be used to score your exam.
5. Complete the exam during the scheduled date range and submit.

Your exam will be scored by a committee of three faculty members in the program and you will be notified by mail whether you received a passing or failing grade.

Reading Certification Only

During the final semester of the program, students seeking reading certification will complete an online exam containing essay questions based on the coursework they have completed throughout the program. The rubrics can be found in the Related Links section of the following website: <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/ceps/gradschool/comps.html>

To get started, students should follow these steps:

1. Apply for graduation during the semester prior to graduation.
2. Sign up for comprehensive exam during the semester prior to graduation.
3. Register for EDU 500, the 0-credit course where your exam will be taken.
4. Complete the exam during the scheduled date range and submit.

Your exam will be scored by a committee of three faculty members in the program and you will be notified by mail whether you received a passing or failing grade.