Process for Seeking a Teaching License

The initial Mississippi Alternate Teacher Certification courses are designed for students who have a non-education undergraduate degree yet wish to become a certified teacher. The State of Mississippi requires unlicensed degree holders who wish to be licensed to enroll in an alternative teacher certification program or another approved program. The following steps will guide candidates as they begin the process.

Step 1: A qualified candidate (see admission requirements at http://graduateed.belhaven.edu/application.htm) must take EDU 501 and EDU506 (available online or at our Jackson and Olive Branch, Mississippi campuses), pass the Praxis I and II in an approved content area, and meet all other requirements for degree seeking status in the MAT program (only available at our Jackson and Olive Branch, Mississippi campuses) before applying for a three year provisional Class A license.

Step 2: After successfully completing the two courses and passing Praxis I and II in an approved content area, candidates should contact the graduate admissions office to insure that all requirements for full admission have been met. Contact information for the Jackson campus is: gradadmission@belhaven.edu or 601-968-8947. Memphis: memphisadmission@belhaven.edu 901-888-3343. All transcripts, test scores, etc. must be on file before one may apply for the 3 year provisional teacher license.

Step 3: Candidates can access an application for a license on the Mississippi Department of Education website www.mde.k12.ms.us. All applications must obtain the institutional verification recommendation from the Dean of the School of Education or the Director of Graduate Programs. Candidates can contact the Belhaven School of Education at: 601-968-8703.

Step 4: Advisors will guide students as they seek to meet the requirements for completing the internship courses, EDU 502 and 503 offered at our Jackson and Olive Branch, Mississippi campuses. Candidates must be employed in full time teaching in their area of endorsement to enroll in the internship classes.

Step 5: After a candidate successfully completes the one-year teaching internship and the 502 and 503 coursework, they may apply for a Class A standard (5 year -renewable) license. If a candidate completes the Master of Arts in Teaching program, they would then apply for a Class AA standard license.