

Exchange Student Class Registration

This article explains the class registration process for exchange students.

Understanding Courses in the U.S.

There are a few basic things to understand about registering for courses at The University of Alabama (UA). Several things may be very different from the way courses are listed at your home institution.

Course Credit

Courses at The University of Alabama are counted in credit hours. One credit hour at UA is equal to 2 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credits. You will need to take at least 12 credit hours at UA. Your home institution may require you to take 15. We do not allow students to take more than 18 credit hours without special approval. Most courses are 3 credit hours. This means you will typically take four or five classes.

Course Prefix and Level

Courses at The University of Alabama are listed by Title and Prefix and Course Number. The prefix indicates what area of study the course focuses on. You can see an explanation of all the prefixes [here](#).

The level indicates what year of study is appropriate for the course. Exchange students are only allowed to take courses in the 100-400 level range. 100-200 level courses are typical for students in their first or second year of university study. 300-400 level courses are for students in their third, fourth, or final year of study. 300-400 level courses will often have many prerequisite requirements. **Note**, we typically recommend that exchange students take an even balance of 100-200 level courses with 300-400 level courses.

The University of Alabama Academic Catalog

All courses that could be offered at The University of Alabama are listed in the Academic Catalog. You can view the Academic Catalog at <https://catalog.ua.edu/>. **Note**, not every course in the catalog is offered every semester. The catalog is used to determine what courses you might be interested in.

Example Catalog Entry

The example below is an entry from the Academic Catalog. The green box contains the course prefix (AMS) and course number (203). The red box is the name of the course (*Introduction to Southern Studies*). The orange box shows how many credit hours the course is for (3.0). In addition, you will also be able to read a brief description of the course.

The screenshot shows a course card for 'Introduction to Southern Studies'. On the left, there is a red square with 'AMS 203' and 'HU' below it, and an orange-bordered box with 'HOURS 3'. The course title is in a red-bordered box. Below the title is a paragraph of text: 'This discussion-based course introduces students to major texts and interdisciplinary methodologies in the field of Southern Studies. Traversing epochs from before the Civil War until after the Civil Rights Movement, we will scrutinize the interplay between course materials (autobiographies, fictional texts, historical accounts, and films) and major political, cultural, and social forces influencing the region and the nation.' At the bottom, there is a grey button labeled 'HUMANITIES'.

Schedule of Classes

The Office of the Registrar has a [instructions page](#) on viewing the Schedule of Classes.

To see courses offered by UA during the semester you intend to study, you can view the Schedule of Classes. This can be done by logging into [myBama](#) and going to the Student tab and selecting Class Schedule in the Academic and Student Services channel.

If you do not have a myBama login, you can [access the Class Schedule as a Guest](#) or directly access the Class Schedule listings [here](#).

Course Syllabus

The catalog description contains a brief description of the course. For a complete description of the material covered by the course, you will need the syllabus. Many syllabi are archived at <https://syllabi.ua.edu/front/#/>. If you cannot find the syllabus that you are looking for, contact International Student and Scholar Services for help.

Course Equivalencies

We recommend that you work with your faculty and advisors at your home institution to review course descriptions and syllabi to determine how UA courses may match to your home institution course. The University of Alabama's Education Abroad office has established a [course equivalencies table](#) for UA students studying abroad.

While this list is meant for UA students going abroad, you can use this [course equivalencies table](#) to search your home institution and find equivalent courses that UA has already evaluated.

Prerequisites

Some courses have prerequisite requirements that you must have completed before registering for the course. You can click on each prerequisite requirement in the catalog to determine what course is needed. If you have completed the prerequisite at your home institution, you will work with International Student and Scholar Services to get an over-ride. In the example below, there are four different prerequisite requirements that must be completed to enroll in this course. This is typical of courses that are 300-400 level courses.

You may not be able to register for all of the courses you want to. If you have a course with a prerequisite error and you have the prerequisite met from your home institution, contact Trang Nguyen (trang.t.nguyen@ua.edu) at International Student and Scholar Services to help you with the over-ride.