

For more information  
on becoming a teacher  
in Texas contact:

## Texas Troops to Teachers

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[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)



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# TEACHING IN TEXAS



# ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

*Becoming a teacher in Texas is a process that will differ from person to person, depending upon many variables. In this brochure, we describe the main routes to certification and we encourage you to contact our office for more information on your specific situation.*

### 1. If you DO NOT yet hold a bachelor's degree:

You will need to complete a bachelor's degree in order to become a teacher. You may wish to complete the degree and certification together in a college of education at a Texas university. Or you may choose to complete a degree and achieve the certification later through a university post-baccalaureate or master's program, or through an alternative certification program. You may also seek certification in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) area of Trade and Industrial Education with an associate's degree or high school diploma.

### 2. If you currently hold, or previously held, a standard out-of-state or out-of-country teaching certificate:

You may be eligible for the reciprocity process that Texas extends to certificate holders from other states or foreign countries. The reciprocity process is under the control of the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Individuals with a standard (unconditional) certificate initiate the process by going online to the TEA website at [www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov) and registering. You will submit your certificate and transcripts to TEA for Review of Credentials. If approved, TEA will issue a one-year certificate in the same subject or teaching field as your out-of-state credential. You are then given one year in which to take the Texas certification examinations required for that teaching certificate. While you hold the one-year certificate, you may be hired and teach in Texas, the same as any other certified teacher.

### 3. If you have completed a bachelor's degree, but have never held a standard teaching certificate:

You will need to complete a state-approved Texas certification program. This may be an alternative certification program (ACP), a university post baccalaureate program, or a master's and certification program.

## ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS (ACP)

Contact one of the many ACP programs statewide that offer the certification area in which you are interested. Each program is unique and has its own requirements, deadlines, and training schedules. Check our website for the most current information on programs in each area of the state.

- A. If required by the program, take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) to verify competency in reading, math, and English or the Pre-Admission Content Test. Programs may have other provisions to assess these skills, but this determination is controlled by the certification program.
- B. Order official copies of your transcripts from every university at which you have taken classes. Cumulative transcripts are not acceptable. Submit all transcripts with your application packet to the program.
- C. Request and complete an application packet and submit it to the ACP by its program deadline.
- D. If the transcripts and test scores are acceptable, the ACP will contact you for a structured interview. Acceptance in the programs will be based on a cumulative merit of application factors. Program directors often limit the number of applicants accepted, based on their experience of the numbers and types of vacancies which need to be filled in schools.

- E. Training for most programs begins with the pre-employment phase. This may involve taking college courses, classes taught by consultants, or modules on the internet. You will be required to pass a content area certification test prior to teaching.
- F. During the pre-employment phase, you will contact school districts to secure employment. When you are hired, a probationary certificate will be issued by TEA. You will be paid a first year teachers salary.
- G. When school begins, you are the paid teacher of record in your classroom. You are an employee of the district, with all pay and benefits of a regular teacher. You will also continue to be mentored and trained by your ACP, according to their training program and schedule.
- H. During the program, you will take all Texas certification examinations (TExES) required for your teaching field.
- I. If you successfully complete the program, pass your examinations, and receive a positive evaluation from your principal and ACP staff, you will be recommended to TEA for a full Standard Professional Teacher Certificate.
- J. Costs vary by program, usually ranging from \$4500 to \$6000. Part of the cost is paid during the pre-employment phase, with the remainder often deducted from the teacher's salary over the course of the year.

## POST-BACCALAUREATE / MASTER'S UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

- A. Contact a Texas university that has a college of education and has been approved to train and certify teachers.
- B. If required, take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) to assess competency in reading, math, and English skills. Other admission tests may be required as well, if applying for graduate credit.
- C. Submit all transcripts of college course work, and request a certification plan from the college or university in the area for which you are seeking certification.
- D. Complete courses required by the certification plan and perform either student teaching or a field internship.
- E. Pass the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) required for your specific teaching field(s).
- F. Upon completion of Certification Plan, university recommends you to TEA for Standard Professional Teacher Certificate.

### What are the approved initial teacher certification areas in Texas?

Teacher certifications in Texas are based primarily on six certification levels: Early Childhood (EC) through grade 12 (All-Level), EC through grade 6, grades 4-8, grades 6 through 12, grades 7-12, and grades 8-12. Beginning Jan 1, 2021 the certification level of EC through grade 3 and the Science of Teaching Reading exam will be added.

\*Critical Need

The same subject area may be included in more than one level (math and science, for example). The following is a list of approved teacher certificates for Texas primary and secondary schools (as approved by TEA):

### Early Childhood - Grade 12 (All-Level)

- American Sign Language (ASL) - Written
- Art
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Health
- Languages Other Than English\* (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese) and Bilingual\*
- Music
- Physical Education
- Special Education\*
- Technology Applications\*
- Theatre

### Early Childhood - Grade 6

- Elementary Generalist/Core Subjects

### Grades 4-8

- Middle School Generalist/Core Subjects
- English Language Arts/Reading
- English Language Arts/Reading/Social Studies
- Math\*
- Math/Science\*
- Science\*
- Social Studies

### Grades 6-12

- Career and Technical Education (as listed with CTE)\*
- CTE: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

### Grades 6-12 Cont.

- CTE: Business & Finance
- CTE: Health Science
- CTE: Marketing
- CTE: Technology Education
- CTE: Trade & Industrial Education
- CTE/FCS: Family & Consumer Sciences Composite
- CTE/FCS: Hospitality, Nutrition, and Food Services
- Dance
- Math/Physical Science/Engineering\*
- Physical Science
- Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

### Grades 7-12

- Chemistry\*
- English Language Arts/Reading
- History
- Journalism
- Life Science\*
- Math\*
- Physics/Math\*
- Science\*
- Social Studies
- Speech

### Grades 8-12

- Computer Science\*
- CTE/FCS: Human Development & Family Studies\*

### Important Information:

Each subject area is now a separate test which must be passed. House Bill 2205, signed by Governor Abbott, and effective September 1, 2015, limits the number of times a candidate may take an exam to five total after this date.