TEACHER CERTIFICATION APPLICANTS

The Educator Preparation Program (EPP) prepares candidates for numerous initial teacher certificates. The program produces teachers who are certified to teach in Texas public, charter, and private EC - 12 schools.

Post-baccalaureate students can earn initial teacher certification through the following options:

- teacher certification only (stand-alone)
- master’s degree + certification
- second bachelor’s degree program with teacher certification (see undergraduate catalog for admittance and program requirements)

Admission Requirements for U.S. Citizens

Stand-Alone Teacher Certification

The items listed below are required for admission during the 2018-2019 academic year (Fall 2018, Spring 2019). For submission instructions, additional details and admission requirements for semesters beyond 2018-2019 (if applicable), please visit the program’s web page.

- completed officially designated online application
- $10 nonrefundable application fee
- $50 nonrefundable international credential fee (if applicable)
- baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
- official transcripts required from each institution where course credit was granted
- minimum 2.75 GPA on your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work toward a degree
- content courses, and evidence of course work in reading, written communication, critical thinking, mathematics, and oral communication. Visit the program’s web page for more information.

Master's Degree + Certification Programs

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Admission Requirements for International Applicants

An international applicant is defined as an applicant who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. All international applicants fall under regulations of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Federal law governs university rules regarding non-U.S. citizens; hence, admission requirements for international applicants, including permanent residents, differ from those for U.S. citizens.

The following items, in addition to those listed for U.S. citizens, are required for admission consideration for semesters of entry during the 2018-2019 academic year (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, and/or Summer I 2019). These items apply to both stand-alone certifications and master’s degree + certification programs.

1. $50 nonrefundable international credential fee. (The application fee for is $10 plus the $50 international credential fee for a total application fee of $60.)
2. official transcripts from every institution attended: one in the native language and one certified English translation (if transcripts are issued in a language other than English)
3. a copy of the graduation/degree certificate (diploma) showing the type of degree and the date in which the degree was earned
4. official (iBT) TOEFL scores with a minimum of 24 on the speaking, 22 for reading, 22 for writing, and 21 for writing. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) does not accept any other English proficiency exams.

Refer to the International Admission Documents section of this catalog or The Graduate College’s website (http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu) for more information about these requirements.

F-1 Visa Enrollment Requirements

A student under F-1 student visa must enroll full-time (nine hours) in the fall and spring terms. An F-1 student does not have to enroll during the summer if the student is eligible and intends to register for the next term. A new initial F-1 student who recently gained admission into the U.S. with a program start date set to begin with the summer session must enroll full-time for that summer session. Also, international students not holding an assistantship can be enrolled in fewer than 9 hours and be considered full-time under two conditions: a) if they have completed all course work and are completed an internship integral to their degree program, b) if they have completed all course requirements and are working on their thesis/dissertation only. The exception under a) can be granted for one semester only, the exception under b) can be granted for multiple semesters provided the student makes progress on the thesis/dissertation. Please contact the International Office at 512-245-7966 for more information.

Admittance Requirements for the Educator Preparation Program (EPP)

In addition to the above requirements, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and Texas State University require the following items:

- completed application to the Educator Preparation Program
- accepted offer of admittance and nonrefundable $55 fee
- completed application for a Certification Plan and nonrefundable $75 fee
Admittance requirements are subject to change in response to state law and university policy and do not adhere to a particular catalog year. Review the Office of Educator Preparation website (http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep) for current admittance information and processes.

Program Requirements*

Successful teaching requires a combination of both academic and interpersonal skills. Behaviors, skills, abilities, and dispositions which are required for successful teaching as well as the candidate’s general level of readiness for teaching in EC - 12 classrooms are regularly assessed.

All candidates requesting placement in EC - 12 schools must complete a criminal background check. Each school district has its own background check process and requirements that must be met before the school district will approve a candidate’s placement.

Course Work Requirements

Once admitted to the program, candidates must apply for a certification plan and pay a fee. Each certification has different course requirements that may vary according to a candidate’s academic background. Up to six semester credit hours of graduate-level courses may be substituted or transferred with the approval of a program advisor. Candidates seeking secondary or all-level certification may be required to repeat or enroll in undergraduate courses to meet subject-specific content requirements.

Field Experience

A minimum of 30 hours of field experience observation is required; students must complete this requirement the semester before student teaching either in a field block experience or as a stand-alone placement embedded in specific course work. Candidates must consult OEP and/or a program advisor before deciding how to fulfill this requirement.

Student Teaching

Student teaching is the state-required culminating experience of the teacher certification process. This is a one-semester (six credit hours), unpaid, full-time experience in a local public school classroom. However, some candidates with advance approval from a program advisor and the OEP may choose to pursue a year-long, paid internship. All course work from the certification plan must be completed prior to the student teaching semester.

Teacher Certification Exams

The Texas Examination of Educational Standards (TExES) is the state required teacher examination for all Texas Educators. A candidate’s certification area and level will determine which TExES tests are required. Candidates are allowed five attempts for each certification test and must request approval from the OEP for each attempt. Review the OEP website for the test approval process. Candidates are eligible for test approval up to 2 years after completing the program or until the exams expire.

Certification Recommendation

The certification officer will recommend candidates to the state for issuance of a teaching certification, after all of the following have been completed:

- passing scores on all of the required certification exams
- credit for student teaching or internship posted to the transcript

Holders of Valid Out-of-State Certificates

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) reviews out-of-state teacher certificates. Contact the SBEC at 888-863-5880.