**TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

The Educator Preparation Program (EPP) offers initial teacher certification in Early Childhood through Secondary grades. The program produces highly-qualified teachers who are certified to teach in Texas public, charter, and private PreK-12 schools.

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

1. 2nd bachelor's degree program with teacher certification (see undergraduate catalog for admittance and program requirements)
2. M.Ed. with Teacher Certification (CMED)
3. Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification Only

**Application Process**

If an applicant is seeking initial teacher certification only and holds at least a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, the individual must apply for admission through The Graduate College. Applicants should adhere to the following procedure:

1. Submit an admission application and non-refundable $10 fee to The Graduate College at https://www.applytexas.org.
2. Submit an official transcript from each college or university attended.
3. After being admitted by The Graduate College, apply for a certification plan in the Office of Educator Preparation.
4. Go to the following website to learn more about the admission requirements and fees for the Teacher Preparation Program: http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/.

**International Teacher Certification Applicants**

An international applicant is defined as an applicant who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. In addition to meeting the above requirements, international students seeking post-baccalaureate or post-graduate teacher certification admittance must:

1. Pay a $50 non-refundable international/evaluation fee. (The application fee for international students is $10 plus the $50 evaluation fee for a total application fee of $60.)
2. Submit two official transcripts indicating that a baccalaureate degree equivalent was awarded: one set in the native language and one set translated in English.
3. Submit a copy of the diploma or certificate awarded showing the type of degree earned, the institution awarding the degree, and the date in which the award was earned.
4. Submit official results of the internet-based TOEFL showing a score of 78 or higher, with a minimum of 26 on the speaking section and a 19 in all other sections.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) does not accept any other English proficiency exam scores.

A student under an F-1 student visa must be enrolled full-time (9 hours) in the fall and spring terms. 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.

**Admittance Requirements**

The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) and Texas State University requirements for admittance to the EPP are as follows:

1. An accepted application to The Graduate College for CMED or Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification
2. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university
3. Minimum grade point average of 2.75 on last 60 hours
4. Fifteen (15) semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area if the applicant is seeking certification in math or science; twelve (12) semester credit hours in the subject-specific content area for all other certifications.
5. Coursework that shows ability to communicate, listen, read, write, and think critically
6. English language proficiency (bachelor's degree from U.S. institution or satisfactory scores on the TOEFL) sufficient for daily communication and teaching

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 (OEP) website for current admittance and processes http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/.

**Program Requirements***

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

All candidates requesting placement in PreK-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 (6) 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 thirty (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 coursework
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 (5) attempts for each certification test and must request approval from the OEP for each attempt. Review the OEP website [http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/TExES-Tests.html](http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/TExES-Tests.html) 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 posted to the transcript
- Bachelor's degree on file with the university
- Completed application for certification through TEA

* Program requirements are subject to change in response to state law and university policy and do not adhere to a particular catalog year. Review the OEP website for current program requirements and processes.

**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.