Office of Educator Preparation

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www.education.txstate.edu/oep

The Office of Educator Preparation (OEP) serves all university departments and schools that are involved in producing new teachers for grades EC-12, namely, departments and schools in the Colleges of Applied Arts, Business Administration, Education, Fine Arts and Communication, Liberal Arts, and Science and Engineering. The OEP advises and assists students seeking to earn Texas teacher credentials at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate levels.

Teacher Certification

Students seeking certification to teach EC-6 (Early Childhood through Grade Six), 4-8 (Grade Four through Grade Eight), or All-level Special Education (Early Childhood through Grade 12) will major in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education. Students seeking certification to teach All-level Physical Education or All-level Health will major in X or Y, respectively, in the Department of Health and Human Performance within the College of Education. Students seeking certification to teach in Grades 6, 7, or 8-12 (Grade Six, Seven, or Eight through Grade Twelve) or All-level certification in other disciplines will major in their chosen teaching field in the department and college where that major is housed. Students should note that teacher certification requirements may differ from degree requirements and that completion of both is necessary for awarding a degree and recommending a student for teacher certification. In order to pursue teacher certification, students must apply and be admitted into the Teacher Preparation Program through the Office of Educator Preparation.

Admittance to the Teacher Preparation Program

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission into the University and following a student’s official declaration of a certification-seeking degree program, students must apply to and meet the following requirements for formal admittance into the Teacher Preparation Program:

1. An Overall GPA of at least 2.75.
2. Completion of the following coursework with a grade of “C” or better to demonstrate competency in the following skill areas:
   • Reading: two courses from HIST 1310, HIST 1320, POSI 2310 or POSI 2320 or their equivalents.
   • Written Communication: ENG 1310 and ENG 1320 or their equivalents.
   • Critical Thinking: PHIL 1305 or PHIL 1320 or its equivalent.
   • Mathematics: MATH 1315 or MATH 1319 or MATH 1329 or MATH 2321 or MATH 2417 or MATH 2471 for Interdisciplinary Studies majors or any algebra-equivalent or higher mathematics course, as determined by the Mathematics Department at Texas State. (Note: MATH 1316 does not fulfill the mathematics requirement for Teacher Preparation Program admittance.)
3. Completion of COMM 1310 or its equivalent with a grade of “B” or better to demonstrate competency in oral communication. If a grade lower than “B” is earned, students may schedule an interview with the Office of Educator Preparation to determine whether the course must be repeated.
4. Completion of the online Teacher Preparation Program Admittance Module and quiz to learn about current teacher certification requirements, program expectations, and application procedures.
5. Application to the Teacher Preparation Program. The online application form is available at http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/.

Determination of admittance to the Teacher Preparation Program is overseen by the Office of Educator Preparation. More information is available at http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep.

Sequence of Coursework

Students should refer to their Advising Center’s degree plan check sheets for guidance in following the Teacher Preparation course sequence in their degree plan. At a minimum, each Teacher Preparation sequence consists of introductory “Education Core” classes, at least one semester of a Field-Based Block of coursework and a final semester of Student Teaching that occurs after all other coursework has been completed. Students must apply for Field-block coursework at http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/Applications/apply-for-fieldblock-experience.html and for Student teaching coursework at http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/Applications/apply-for-student-teaching.html.

Elementary, Middle School, High School, and All-Level Certification Field-Based Requirements

Students in any undergraduate teacher certification program must participate in one or more field-block(s) of integrated courses taught two days per week at a public school in the Central Texas area. This pre-Student Teaching experience is a unique opportunity to learn in actual classrooms, in a partnership between Texas State and public school faculty.

Student Teaching

All coursework for a student’s degree program should be completed prior to Student Teaching. Student Teaching should be done during a student’s final semester.

The requirements to be admitted to Student Teaching are as follows:

1. Attendance at a mandatory Student Teaching Round-Up meeting during the long semester prior to the Student Teaching semester (typically the third week of each semester).
2. Validation of required pre-Student Teaching field experiences.
3. An Overall GPA of at least 2.75.
4. A GPA of at least 2.50 in all assigned courses in the professional sequence and in the teaching field(s) or specialization(s), with no grade below a C in these courses.
5. Approval from the Office of Educator Preparation.
Graduation and Certification

Graduation
In addition to the other graduation requirements listed in this catalog, the following graduation requirements must be met by students seeking teacher certification:

1. An Overall GPA of at least 2.75.
2. Successful completion of student teaching.
3. A GPA of at least 2.50 in all assigned courses in the professional sequence and in the teaching field(s) or specialization(s) with no grade below a “C” in these courses.
4. Submission of online Graduation Application by the university’s deadline.

Certification
Eligible students should apply for a Texas Educator Certificate through the State Board for Educator Certification. The Certification Officer in the OEP will recommend the issuance of the appropriate certificate by the State of Texas. The certification process includes the following steps:

1. Completion of at least a baccalaureate degree and the posting of the degree to the official transcript.
2. Verification of satisfactory completion of Student Teaching experience.
3. Passing scores on the appropriate Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES).

Dispositions for the Teaching Profession
Students in teacher certification seeking programs are preservice teachers who are expected to exhibit professional dispositions and behaviors that are appropriate to the school environment and that support learners’ academic success. These dispositions and behaviors include professional attitudes, values, and beliefs demonstrated through both verbal and non-verbal behaviors as educators interact with students, families, colleagues, and communities.

A candidate who does not meet the expectations for the behaviors and dispositions for the teaching profession will be identified by a professor, supervisor, cooperating teacher, or principal and will meet with an administrator in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and/or the Office of Educator Preparation to discuss the case. If further action is necessary, the candidate’s case will be reviewed by the chair of the appropriate department with input from other faculty, as appropriate, to determine eligibility for the Teacher Preparation Program. Appeals regarding this Committee’s decision must be made to the Dean of the College of Education whose decision is final.

Post-Graduate Certificate Requirement
Persons who hold at least a bachelor’s degree and who are seeking either initial or additional Texas teaching certificates need to follow information listed in the Graduate Catalog. More information regarding admittance into Teacher Preparation Program is available at: www.education.txstate.edu/oep.