OFFICE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION

Education Building Room 2016
Telephone: 512-245-7880 Fax: 512-245-8345
www.education.txstate.edu/oep (http://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 educator 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 Twelve) will major in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education. Students seeking all other teacher certifications will major in their chosen teaching field in the department, school 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.

Admittance to the Educator Preparation Program
In order to pursue teacher certification, students must apply and be invited to attend the Educator Preparation Program through the Office of Educator Preparation. If a student accepts this invitation, the student must then pay a required $55 Texas Education Agency technology fee before the student will be officially admitted. Please see http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep for current admittance requirements and procedures.

Sequence of Coursework
Students should refer to their Advising Center’s degree plan check sheets for guidance in following the Educator Preparation course sequence in their degree plan. At a minimum, each Educator Preparation sequence consists of introductory “Education Core” classes, at least one 15 week semester of a Field-Based Block of coursework and a final 15 week 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 that provide authentic experience in classrooms, prior to Student Teaching. Texas State Partners with several Central Texas public schools to provide these rich, hands-on experiences. All students in field experiences must complete criminal background checks.

Student Teaching
All other degree-required coursework must be completed prior to Student Teaching, which should occur during a student’s final semester. Contact your advisor regularly for updated degree audit and certification requirements. For information about applying to Student Teaching, see http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep/. Criminal background checks are required for all Student Teaching Placements.

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.

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 programs are preservice teacher candidates 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 candidates 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 faculty, as appropriate, to determine eligibility for the Educator Preparation Program. Appeals regarding the candidate’s eligibility should 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 who are seeking either initial or additional Texas teaching certificates need to follow
information listed in the Graduate Catalog. Information regarding admittance into the Educator Preparation Program is available at www.education.txstate.edu/oep (http://www.education.txstate.edu/oep).