

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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The College of Education contains three academic departments. These are Curriculum and Instruction; Educational Administration and Psychological Services; and Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Teacher preparation was the original mission of Southwest Texas Normal School when it was chartered in 1899, and today faculty members in the College of Education continue to focus their efforts on this primary mission. Over the last century, the mission of the College has expanded to include the professional preparation of educators at the master's and doctorate levels as well as the preparation of professionals in other fields such as recreation administration, health and wellness promotion, athletic training, health and fitness management, educational leadership, school psychology, professional counseling, and adult and developmental education.

Teacher education is a campus-wide commitment at Texas State. Many academic departments offer core curriculum courses and major/minor courses, and the College of Education offers the certification courses. Programs leading to teacher certification are available for elementary, middle, high school and all-level teachers. These are the EC-6 (Early Childhood through Grade Six), the 4-8 (Grade Four through Grade Eight), the 8-12 (Grade Eight through Grade 12), and All-Level (Early Childhood through Grade 12) certificates. Students seeking the EC-6, 4-8, or Special Education certificate will be majors in the College of Education, and students seeking the 8-12 or All-level certificate will complete an academic major of their choice in the appropriate department. Within the HPER Department in the College of Education, students may acquire certificates to teach Physical Education or Health.

The College of Education offers two doctoral degree programs. One is a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in School Improvement, and the other is a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Adult, Professional, and Community Education. More information about these degrees may be obtained from the Graduate College or from the College of Education web site.

Center for Student and Professional Services

The Center contains the following three offices: The Office of Academic Advising, The Office of Educator Certification, and The Office of Teacher Education and Field Experiences.

The purpose of the College of Education Center for Student and Professional Services is to provide a full range of services to students seeking an undergraduate degree and/or teacher certification through the College of Education. These services include, but are not limited to: exploration of career and educational goals; assistance with selection of educational programs; information regarding policies and procedures; and navigation through the sequence of courses required for a degree. We strive to develop a guidance and support system to encourage student self-reliance, responsibility, and success in achieving academic goals. Faculty in the College of Education, as well as Center for Student and Professional Services staff, are available to discuss career goals and opportunities available within each program area.

All students in the College of Education should contact the Office of Academic Advising for an initial appointment to complete paperwork necessary for entering programs in the College of Education.

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

Students in any teacher certification program must participate in a block 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. It fulfills the field experience requirement for teaching in the public schools. The field block is taken following the required courses indicated below.

Elementary Certification: Early Childhood –Grade 6. Students must take the professional development core classes prior to enrolling in the field base block. The core consists of CI 3310, CI 3315, RDG 4320, and ECE 4300. The field base block classes include CI 4325, RDG 3315, and RDG 3321.

Middle School Certification: Grades 4-8. Students must take the professional development core classes prior to enrolling in their two field base blocks. The core consists of CI 3310, CI 3325, and RDG 4320. The first of two field base block classes include RDG 3315 and 4310. The second field base includes CI 3300 and 4300.

High School (Grades 8-12) and All-Level (Grades 1-12) Certification. Students must take CI 4332 and CI 3325 prior to participating in a field base block. The 9-hour field base experience consists of CI 4370, CI 4343, and RDG 3323.

Students may choose to seek teacher certification in either one or two fields of study, depending upon the field(s) chosen. Some departments have designed teaching fields that must be completed in tandem with at least one other field. Students are advised to consult a departmental advisor prior to selection of teaching fields.

Admission to Teacher Education

During the first semester on campus, a student who plans to receive teacher certification must attend a Teacher Education Information meeting. Dates and times for these meetings are posted on the Center for Student and Professional Services website. They are offered each semester. After attending this meeting, pre-teacher education students will be shown how to submit their preliminary application for teacher education and will learn about formal admission to teacher education and the requirements.

Once a student has completed 45-60 semester credit hours of coursework leading to teacher certification, formal admission into teacher education is required.

Requirements for formal admission into the teacher education program include:

1. 2.50 Texas State GPA
2. Acceptable writing sample
3. 15 hours of service learning experience with students from multicultural backgrounds
4. Three letters of recommendation (service learning supervisor, University professor, personal reference)
5. Acceptable background check
6. Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) scores of at least 220 in writing and 230 in reading and mathematics or documentation of exemptions or equivalencies
7. College level skills in reading, oral and written communication, critical thinking and mathematics:
 - a. Reading: Successful completion of PHIL 1305, PHIL 1320, or its equivalent
 - b. Oral Communication: Successful completion of COMM 1310 or its equivalent
 - c. Written Communication: Grades of “C” or higher in ENG 1310 and 1320 or their equivalents
 - d. Critical Thinking: Successful completion of PHIL 1305, PHIL 1320, or its equivalent.

- e. Mathematics: A grade of “C” or higher in MATH 1315 or 1319 or 2417 or 2471 for Interdisciplinary Studies majors or successful completion of the mathematics requirement in the selected major for high school and all-level certificates.

Upon meeting the requirements for admission, a student must pay a \$200 admission to teacher education fee. This fee includes the cost of access to Live Text, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction assessment system, the student’s background check, and administrative fees.

Students should follow the curriculum sequence outlined by their major departments, schools, or colleges. Students should contact advisors who will help them plan schedules that will lead to graduation as well as certification. They are encouraged to join student organizations related to the teaching profession.

Note: Special certification programs, such as Career Alternatives in Special Education (CASE), Certification and Master of Education (C-MED), or Teacher Recruitment Program (TRP) may have different and/or additional requirements as stated in the guidelines for these programs.

Student Teaching

A list of the courses required to be completed prior to student teaching may be obtained from the College of Education Center for Student and Professional Services.

The requirements to be admitted to student teaching are as follows:

1. Admission to Teacher Education.
2. A Texas State GPA of 2.50 or higher.
3. Validation of required pre-student teaching field experiences.
4. A grade of “C” or higher in all assigned courses in the professional sequence prior to student teaching.
5. A GPA of at least 2.50 in the teaching field(s) or specialization(s) with no grade below a “C”.
6. Approval from the chair of the department of the student’s major teaching field.

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. A Texas State GPA of at least 2.50.
2. Successful completion of student teaching.
3. Grades of “C” or higher in each course in the assigned professional sequence.
4. A GPA of at least 2.50 in the teaching field(s) or specialization(s) with no grade below a “C”.
5. Timely application for graduation. Candidates for degrees offered in the College of Education must complete a graduation application online.

Certification. Upon application by qualified students, the Certification Officer recommends 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.
2. Completion of the appropriate teaching fields or specializations with grades of “C” or higher in each required course.
3. Completion of the appropriate professional sequence of courses with a grade of “C” or higher in each.
4. Passing scores on the appropriate Examination(s) for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET) or Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES).
5. Filing a State application form online at www.sbec.state.tx.us.

Fitness for the Teaching Profession. Students who are admitted to teacher education are expected to meet specified non-academic standards, which are necessary to be competent teachers. The intent is to ensure that the students recommended for teacher certification are able to effectively and independently carry out the duties for which they are being prepared.

The fitness criteria include physical characteristics, personality characteristics, responsibility characteristics, communication skills, social relationships, personal

responsibilities, and commitment to the teaching profession. Students who have been identified with a demonstrable discrepancy by a professor or cooperating teacher will meet with the Teacher Education Admission and Retention (TEAR) Committee to discuss options available for progress in Teacher Education to continue.

Directed (Student) Teaching

Directed Teaching should be completed during the last long semester prior to graduation. Before being permitted to begin student teaching, students must meet all requirements listed above under Student Teaching. All assigned courses in teaching fields and in the professional sequence must be completed with specified grade-point averages and grades prior to the beginning of the student teaching.

Student Teaching Roundups meetings are held one long semester prior to the student teaching semester (early September for Spring and late January for Fall) and are mandatory for all students who plan to student teach. Students are also given information at the Roundups about upcoming requirements prior to student teaching and the course(s) for which they will register.

Post-Graduate Certificate Requirement

Persons who hold at least a bachelor's degree and who are seeking either initial or additional Texas teaching certificates will follow the procedures listed below:

- A. Instructions for Post-Graduates from a Texas College or University and Non-Certified Out-of-State Applicants
 1. Attend a required information session.
 2. Apply for admission through the Graduate College.
 3. Apply to the Certification Officer in the College of Education Center for Student and Professional Services for a certification plan.
 4. Successfully complete the certification plan.
 5. Pass all required state certification examinations.
 6. Apply for certification online.
- B. Certified Out-of-State Applicants
 1. Persons holding a valid teacher certificate from another state must apply to the State Board for Education Certification, www.sbec.state.tx.us, for either a certificate or a certification plan.

Educational Placement

Job placement assistance for students seeking employment in elementary and secondary schools is available through Texas State Career Services (5th floor, LBJ Student Center). Career Services works directly with the College of Education in providing job fairs, resume preparation, on-line student profiles for school district recruitment, etc. Employment information is also available upon request concerning education-related job opportunities in other states and overseas.

Courses in Education Student Teaching (EDST)

4380 Student Teaching All-Level I EC-6/4-8. (.5-20) This half-semester student teaching course is designed for undergraduate students seeking All-Level teacher certification. Students will engage in teaching experiences in EC-6 or 4-8 settings for half of a 14-week assignment with university guidance and supervision. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: 2.50 Texas State GPA. Co-requisite: EDST 4381.

4381 Student Teaching All-Level II 8-12. (.5-20) This half-semester student teaching course is designed for undergraduate students seeking All-Level teacher certification. Students will engage in teaching experiences in 8-12 settings for half of a 14-week assignment with university guidance and supervision. Repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: 2.50 Texas State GPA. Co-requisite: EDST 4380.

4680 Student Teaching 4-8. (.5-40) Students will integrate and apply knowledge and skills learned from their program of study while student teaching with experienced 4-8 teachers in the public schools with university supervision. Students will demonstrate exit-level proficiency in state-adopted and Texas State teacher proficiencies. Prerequisite: 2.50 Texas State GPA

4681 Student Teaching 8-12. (.5-40) Students will integrate and apply knowledge and skills learned from their program of study while student teaching with experienced 8-12 teachers in the public schools with university guidance and supervision. Students will demonstrate exit-level proficiency in state-adopted and Texas State proficiencies for teachers. One conference hour per week is required. Prerequisite: 2.50 Texas State GPA.

4687 Student Teaching EC-6. (.5-40) Students will integrate and apply knowledge and skills learned from their program of study while student teaching with experienced EC-6 teachers in the public schools with university supervision. Students will demonstrate exit-level proficiency in state-adopted and Texas State teacher proficiencies. Prerequisite: 2.50 Texas State GPA.