

CERTIFICATION-ONLY ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

PURPOSES

The purpose of the certification-only alternative teacher certification program is to offer an alternative teacher certification pathway for grades 6-12, K-12, and Early Interventionist Special Education Birth-Age 5.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on all undergraduate course work **OR** a Master's degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- Passing scores on Praxis I **OR** an ACT Composite Score of 22 or higher **OR** an SAT Composite Score of 1030 or higher **OR** a Master's Degree.
- Passing scores on Praxis II in specified content area. There is no Praxis II exam for Computer Science; therefore 31 hours of computer science courses are required.
- Vocal or Instrumental Music: Those seeking admission for alternate certification in these areas must have at least a bachelor's degree in the content area. Those who do not have a degree in the content area must meet with the head of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts for additional course work.

To apply for admission, official transcripts from all universities attended, along with official Praxis scores, must be submitted to the coordinator of the Certification-Only Alternative Certification Program. Students must also apply for graduate admission to the university through the Office of Admissions. Applicants must also be interviewed by the program coordinator.

PORTFOLIOS

As part of the College of Education focus on performance-based outcomes, portfolios will be incorporated into the assessment of students enrolled in an approved Teacher Education Program. Students are required to submit portfolios through PASSPORT, a web-based system that provides candidates, faculty, and administrative staff a system to gather, demonstrate, and evaluate performance data. Candidates will be charged a onetime non-refundable fee for licensure to use the system for seven years. This fee will automatically be charged when a candidate registers for a course offered by the College of Education.

The portfolio will allow students to demonstrate, through reflections, their understanding of how artifacts contained in the portfolio meet the program outcomes; provide a process by which a student can become a reflective practitioner to foster continuous improvement; and document a student's growth in the program. The portfolio will consist of artifacts, documents, and evidence which demonstrate that the program's Conceptual Framework have been met. Students will submit an Introductory Level Portfolio after successful completion of all Knowledge of the Learner and Learning Environment courses as listed on the Official Plan. The Developing Level Portfolio will be submitted as a prerequisite for student teaching or internship. The Competency Level Portfolio is required for program completion.

STUDENT TEACHING

Student teaching is an all-day (approximately eight hours), all semester activity. The student teacher will be required to spend the full public school day, plus any additional conference or seminar time in this experience. The Director of Student Teaching will make the assignments for each student teacher. All possible considerations will be given, but it is the responsibility of the student teacher to make arrangements to meet the conditions of the assignment that is made. Student teaching must be completed in Southeastern's teacher education service region. Those districts include the following: Ascension Parish, City of Bogalusa, East Baton Rouge Parish, Jefferson Parish (Kenner and Metairie area), Livingston Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish, and Washington Parish.

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT TEACHING

The Louisiana Department of Education regulations for certification of teachers require that students complete their student teaching under the control and supervision of the institution from which they expect to be graduated. To be eligible for student teaching, students must:

- Apply for student teaching by the deadline, which occurs one semester prior to student teaching experience. Director of Student Teaching assigns grade or subject and supervising teacher.
- Pass Praxis II content exam.
- Pass Praxis II exam in Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT).
- Pass Introductory Level Portfolio and Developing Level Portfolio.
- Earn at least a "B" in EDUC 203 and 212.
- Complete required course work with a cumulative 2.5 with no grade below "C."
- Receive approval from Director of Student Teaching.

STUDENT TEACHING/INTERNSHIP SEMESTER

In order to remain in student teaching/internship, students are expected to meet and maintain desirable professional, physical and moral standards consistent with their positions in the public schools. A student who fails or is directed to withdraw from student teaching or internship must complete a one semester Professional Improvement Plan prior to a second teaching/internship experience. Only a grade of Pass or Fail is issued.

INTERNSHIP YEAR

An internship consisting of two consecutive semesters of teaching at an approved school site and the appropriate grade level and in the area of certification may be substituted for student teaching. Internships must be completed in Southeastern's teacher education service region that includes: Ascension Parish, City of Bogalusa, East Baton Rouge Parish, Jefferson Parish (Kenner and Metairie area), Livingston Parish, St. Charles Parish, St. John Parish, St. Tammany Parish, Tangipahoa Parish and Washington Parish.

To qualify for an internship a student must provide:

- Verification that all pre-requisites have been met the semester prior to the Internship
- Verification that all required parts of the Praxis have been successfully passed
- Written recommendation from all of the candidates' methods instructors and a rating using the Professional Attributes and Characteristics Scale
- Completed application for the internship
- Verification that the school has a state approved classification
- Verification that the school is accredited by the regional accrediting agency
- Verification that the principal/assistant has certification in principalship and training in supervision
- Verification that the principal/assistant principal has served in this role for a minimum of three years
- Signed Principal/Assistant Principal Internship Agreement form
- Verification that a mentor, teacher, who has taught a minimum of three years in the area of the intern's certification, will be assigned by the principal/assistant principal to assist the intern
- Verification of minimum class size in the area of certification
- Evidence of cultural diversity within the school population
- A copy of the Signed Internship Agreement form
- A copy of the contract or employment agreement after the internship has been approved

NOTE: The candidate is responsible for submitting the above documents the semester prior to beginning the internship. A complete packet should be submitted rather than item by item. Authorization to register for an internship will not be granted until all documents have been submitted.

PRACTITIONER LICENSE 2

Students enrolled in the Certification-Only Alternate Program that have completed 80 hours of classroom readiness training may be eligible to receive a Practitioner License (PL) 2 through the Louisiana Department of Education. The PL allows students to teach while pursuing alternate certification. The PL may be issued for one school year, renewed annually, and held for a maximum of three years while completing the program. To be eligible for renewal, students must remain enrolled in the program and complete nine hours each year, unless fewer hours are needed to complete the program.