Teacher Education Certification Program

U.T. Dallas offers a rigorous teacher certification curriculum and has built an outstanding reputation for producing excellent teachers.

Coursework and field experiences leading to teacher certification are planned and implemented through the Teacher Development Center (972-883-2730) in coordination with the schools in the relevant disciplines. A model is used which calls upon the total resources of the institution rather than relying on a school of education. The State Board for Educator Certification has reviewed content and procedures of these curricula.

Initial teaching certificates may be earned by undergraduates, concurrently with their degree studies, or by graduates from this or other institutions. Additional teaching field(s) may be added to valid certificates presently held.

As of September 1, 1999, all Texas teaching credentials must be renewed every five years. Students who have not successfully completed all requirements for teacher certification, including all coursework, ExCET testing, and application for a teaching certificate before August 31, 2002, will be subject to the new State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) teaching fields and standards.

SBEC, working in conjunction with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, has revised the rules governing educator preparation, shifting the process away from a prescribed schedule of required classes and semester hours to a standards-based system that identifies the knowledge and skills required for a beginning teacher in Texas. These standards are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, the state’s required curriculum for public school students. SBEC reduced the types of certificates offered but each new certificate requires a greater breadth and depth of knowledge on the part of the beginning teacher. This greater breadth also enables the teacher to teach more than one subject in their teaching field. Rather than a rigid list of courses, Texas law now requires persons seeking educator certification to perform satisfactorily on comprehensive examinations. The educator preparation program is required to determine their candidate’s eligibility to test as part of the registration process for these testing programs. The SBEC website (www.sbec.state.tx.us) is the best source of up-dated information.

Certification Subject Areas

The following are subject areas in which The University of Texas at Dallas offers approved teaching fields leading to teacher certification.

**Teaching Fields - Grades 8-12**

Undergraduate students must complete at least 24 semester hours of appropriate course work in each field, a reading in the content area course, 18 semester hours of professional education, including student teaching, and pass the required state comprehensive examinations (ExCET’s). Certification for grades 8 - 12 is offered in the following fields:

- English Language Arts and Reading
- Social Studies
- Computer Science
- History
- Life Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Science
- Mathematics

**Elementary Certification**

Undergraduate students must have an academic major with 24 hours of appropriate coursework in the teaching field, complete 18 hours of professional education, including student teaching, nine semester hours of reading, three semester hours of mathematics above the core, and three semester hours of science above the core. In addition, candidates will be required to pass ExCET examinations for Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (Professional Development – Elementary 2002/03), and the ExCET examination in the appropriate certification area.

At UTD, the Grade 4-8 certification program, just like the Grade 8-12 certification plans, calls upon the total resources of the university rather than relying on a school of education. Students will need to consult closely with undergraduate advisors in their university academic school to design an appropriate degree plan.
Certification fields for Grades 4-8:

- Science (4-8) (Science Education in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics)
- Mathematics (4-8) (Science Education in the School of Natural Science and Mathematics)
- Social Studies (4-8) (School of Social Sciences)
- English Language Arts and Reading (4-8) (School of Arts and Humanities)
- Generalist (4-8) (School of General Studies) – because this certificate qualifies a candidate to teach multiple subjects in a middle school, additional academic course work is required in order to prepare the candidate for the rigorous, broad-based “Generalist 4-8” ExCET qualifying examination.

Teaching Fields – Early Childhood - 4:

- Generalist
  The Generalist Certification is the only certification available for students interested in early childhood—grade 4. The content related ExCET for this certificate will test for a broad-based content mastery. Students are advised to work with advisors in the School of General Studies or the School of Human Development if they seek degrees that lead to teaching certification in EC-Grade 4.

Undergraduate students need to consult with the appropriate academic program to design an undergraduate degree plan. All teacher certification candidates must register with the Teacher Development Center and take their upper-level professional development and education related course work and field experiences through the Center and the School of General Studies. It is the responsibility of the Teacher Development Center to assure that content and the professional development curricula meet the certification accountability requirements outlined in the Texas Education Code and monitored by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC).

UTD does not currently certify teachers in Reading, Physical Education, Bilingual Education, Special Education, Speech, Journalism, Art, or Music.

All Teaching Fields

All undergraduate students must meet the 42-hour core curriculum for The University of Texas at Dallas. Candidates for certification are required to pass 18 hours of professional development courses, including six hours of student teaching. In addition, candidates must demonstrate computer literacy and effective public speaking.

Admission

Upon admission to the University, undergraduate students should meet with a faculty advisor in the major field to develop a degree plan, indicating to the advisor that the student is seeking teacher certification. Students must then apply for admission to the teacher education certification program and complete a Certification Plan through the Teacher Development Center.

Post-Baccalaureate Program

Persons who already have baccalaureate degrees may seek teacher certification. They should consult with an advisor in the Teacher Development Center at least one semester prior to the semester in which they wish to enroll to discuss various options available to them. Students must complete the required 18 semester hours of professional education course work at the undergraduate level and must meet the 24 semester hour requirements in the appropriate teaching field. When appropriate, students may take the required courses in their teaching field(s) at the graduate or undergraduate level. Post-Baccalaureate students must demonstrate computer literacy and effective public speaking. All students in the teacher education certification program are required to complete a minimum of 12 semester hours at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Guidelines for Admission to The University of Texas at Dallas Teacher Certification Program

In compliance with Chapter 227 of the Texas Administrative Code and the HEA Title I accountability requirements, The University of Texas at Dallas Teacher Development Center has established guidelines for writing deficiency plans and officially admitting a student to the Teacher Certification Program.
Every student seeking teaching credentials at UTD must meet the following requirements.

Provisional Admittance

Entitles a prospective student who has applied for admission to UTD to be advised for a deficiency plan and/or to take the initial courses related to certification:

- **TASP** – Unless exempt from TASP, a candidate must pass the TASP with a score of 260 in Reading and 240 in Math and 240 in Writing*. (see page xx)

  Exemption from TASP: You are exempt from taking the TASP if you meet the qualifying standards on the GRE, GMAT, ACT, SAT, exit-level TAAS, or have a Master’s degree or an earned doctorate from an accredited U.S. institution.
  
  GRE: A minimum combined score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections (Scores can be no more than five years old).
  
  GMAT: A minimum combined score of 510 on the verbal and quantitative sections (Scores can be no more than five years old).
  
  ACT: A composite score of 26, and English and Math sub scores of at least 22 (Scores can be no more than five years old).
  
  SAT: A total score of at least 1180 with 550 minimums in the verbal and math tests. (Scores can be no more than five years old).
  
  TAAS: A minimum writing score of 1780 and a Texas Learning Index (TLI) score of 89 in reading and 86 in math (Scores can be no more than three years old).
  
  TASP requirements for Math and Writing can be met with a grade of “B” or better in approved coursework equivalents taken at UTD. Appropriate documentation is required to qualify for the exemptions from TASP.

  The Official TASP Test Study Guide may be purchased in the UTD Bookstore: TASP registration forms are available in the Teacher Development Center, Green 2.402.

- GPA of 2.75 overall or on last 60 hours of coursework.
- 12 sch of English with no grade lower than a “C” and a GPA of 2.5 in these courses.
- Undergraduate students should meet with a faculty advisor in the major field to develop a degree plan, indicating to the advisor their interest in pursuing teacher certification. Students can then make an appointment for certification plan advising with the Teacher Development Center whenever they are ready to take upper-division courses. Freshmen should not register for education courses.
- Post-Baccalaureate students interested in teacher certification at U.T. Dallas are advised in the Teacher Development Center.

Prior to being “Officially Admitted” to the UTD Teacher Certification Program, students who are seeking certification in a teaching field for a major earned from a university other than UTD, must pass the SPEC required ExCET/TexES in that content area before they can enroll in any UTD courses other than ED 3314 and ED 3339. If the student does not pass the ExCET/TexES on the first attempt, they must meet with a counselor in the Teacher Development Center for a deficiency analysis in the academic major. The counselor will consult with advisors in the academic major program to prescribe a list of UTD courses that the candidate must then complete before being eligible for a barcode from UTD to retest in the content area.

Officially Admitted

A UTD student must do the following to be officially admitted to the Teacher Development Program and be considered a candidate for certification:

- Fill out an application for admission to the Teacher Development Program (available on the web site for UTD Teacher Development Center – http://www.utdallas.edu/teach/). A committee of faculty, administrators, and public school educators will review all applications before students can proceed in the program.
- Have successfully completed the following courses: Education Psychology (ED 3339) and American Public School (ED 3314) at UT Dallas.
- Candidates must be officially admitted into the UTD Teacher Certification Program before they can register for the appropriate Classroom Management course or any Curriculum and Instruction class, Student Teaching or a Post-Baccalaureate Supervised Teaching Internship.
GPA Requirements for Teacher Certification

Students must maintain a 2.75 GPA in all professional education coursework and in teaching fields. Grades of "D" are not acceptable in the content teaching field(s) or in professional education coursework. All core professional education coursework must be taken at UTD.

Requirements for Admission to Student Teaching and Post-Baccalaureate Internships

Applications for student teaching or a supervised Post-Baccalaureate Internship (starting Fall 2002) will be accepted at one of several information sessions held early in each long semester (before October 15 in the fall and before March 15 in the spring). For further information contact the Teacher Development Center.

A committee of faculty, administrators, and field placement educators will review all applications for supervised student teaching or Post-Baccalaureate internships. Students must be finished with all required coursework prior to student teaching and must have a GPA of 2.75 in teaching fields and have passed the appropriate content specialization exam. All candidates must have exhibited professional maturity, acceptable class attendance, and maintained a "B" or better in Curriculum and Instruction and Classroom Management courses in order to be placed in a student teaching assignment. All students must adhere to the highest ethical standards in order to receive a grade of "C" or better in student teaching.

A student teaching fee of $130 will be included in the total registration charges. Students must be registered before they can begin their student teaching.

Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET/TExES)

All persons completing Texas teacher training programs for initial Texas certification must pass proficiency test(s) in their field(s) of certification. All candidates for initial teacher certification must pass:

1. Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities test at the appropriate level, and;
2. Content specialization test

It is the responsibility of the teacher preparation program to determine when a student is prepared to take the examination. The University of Texas at Dallas has aligned education courses with the competencies identified as critical for teachers and offers preparation seminars at least once each semester for UTD students. For information on ExCET/TExES registration and eligibility, please review the Teacher Development Website – http://www.utdallas.edu/teach/ or contact the Teacher Development Center. ExCET/TExES preparation manuals are available in the U.T. Dallas and Off Campus bookstores and can be downloaded from the web at http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/. Students should access this information before or during the first semester of enrollment at UT. Dallas. Students are encouraged to prepare early for the content related specialization ExCET/TExES and to pass the appropriate qualifying exams before student teaching.

Application for Certification

Students who successfully complete all requirements (course work, TASP and ExCET/TExES examinations, etc.) should apply for certification through the Teacher Development Center at UT. Dallas. Contact this office for assistance near the end of your last semester.