Teacher Certification Programs

Information is current at time of publication, but may change without notice due to changes made by the state in the certification programs.

Admission to Teacher Certification

UTSA is approved by the State Board for Educator Certification to recommend students for teaching certificates in various baccalaureate degree areas. Students seeking a standard teaching certificate or seeking certification endorsements should apply for admission to the certification program through the College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) Advising and Certification Center (http://education.utsa.edu/current_students/advising). Applicants may be either degree-seeking or special students.

Undergraduates seeking elementary, special education, or middle level teacher certification must complete the Interdisciplinary Studies degree as outlined in the UTSA Undergraduate Catalog (http://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/educationhumananddevelopment) or on the COEHD Web site under Certification Programs (http://education.utsa.edu/certification_program). Individuals seeking secondary certification must also coordinate with the Center.

Students wishing to add additional teaching field certifications or specialization while coordinating with the COEHD Advising and Certification Center to fulfill certification requirements. Individuals seeking secondary certification should complete the bachelor’s degree requirements in their academic specialization while coordinating with the COEHD Advising and Certification Center to fulfill certification requirements. Individuals seeking teacher certification in physical education or school health should refer to the UTSA Undergraduate Catalog and the Department of Kinesiology, Health and Nutrition (http://education.utsa.edu/health_and_kinesiology) for certification requirements. Students wishing to add additional teaching fields to their standard teaching certificate or graduate students seeking professional certification must also coordinate with the Center.

Specific information regarding admission requirements to the Teacher Certification undergraduate certification programs may be obtained in the COEHD Advising and Certification Center and online at the COEHD Web site under Certification Programs (http://education.utsa.edu/certification_program). Requirements for admission to the undergraduate Teacher Certification Program include:

1. viewing the Teacher Certification Information tutorial online;
2. taking and passing a quiz on the tutorial and completing an online application;
3. attaining junior standing (60 semester credit hours) with at least 9 hours completed at UTSA;
4. completing all core requirements (Music students: see a certification advisor);
5. having a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale)
6. submitting authorization for a Texas Department of Public Safety criminal background report;
7. having no active case pending with the UTSA's Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS);
8. attaining minimum passing scores on one of the following: THEA, ACCUPLACER, ASSET or COMPASS, or meeting exemption requirements for the THEA as outlined by the COEHD guidelines;
9. earning a grade of "C" or better in WRC 1023 Freshman Composition II (Q) and a "C" or better in WRC 1013 Freshman Composition I (Q) or one of the following courses: COM 1043 Introduction to Communication, COM 1043 Introduction to Communication, COM 1043 Introduction to Communication, COM 1043 Introduction to Communication, COM 1043 Introduction to Communication, SPN 3003 Oral and Written Expression, or SPN 3003 Oral and Written Expression;
10. reading and signing the Texas Teacher Code of Ethics Standards Practice and turning in the last page of the document signed and dated to MB 3.214; and
11. EC-6 BBL, and 4-8 BBL students must take and pass the ALPS test.

Coursework Policy

Students must apply and be accepted to the Teacher Certification Program to be eligible to register for restricted courses. Please refer to the catalog for a list of restricted courses. Courses in the Teacher Certification Program require field work in various educational settings. No student is exempt from this field work requirement. All field work must be completed to receive a passing grade for the course. Field placements are assigned by the Director of School Partnerships in the COEHD.

Criminal History Checks

UTSA students must submit to a criminal history background check every semester they interact directly with any minor(s) or legal adult(s) of diminished capacity as a requirement for course completion. Students who are unable to meet the criminal background check standards for the school districts may not be able to complete a course or the Teacher Certification Program. If a student is rejected twice by districts in one semester because of criminal history, students will not be able to continue in the program until such time as the criminal background check is cleared. If the offense is one that will preclude field work altogether, the student will be dismissed from the Teacher Certification program. In accordance with Sec. 53.021, Texas Occupation Code, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) may suspend or revoke a teacher certificate or refuse to issue a teacher certificate for a person who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for a crime that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the teaching profession.

Students are encouraged to initiate and maintain contact with an academic advisor in the COEHD Advising and Certification Center (http://education.utsa.edu/current_students/advising) in order to stay informed of certification and graduation requirements.

UTSA Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

To be admitted to the Teacher Certification Program students must be in good standing with the UTSA. Students seeking admission to the Undergraduate Teacher Certification Program who have ever been referred to UTSA’s Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) may have those referrals and the outcomes of those referrals considered by the Associate Dean for Teacher Education in determining whether to grant admission to the Program. Admission is at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Teacher Education. Students requesting admission to the program who have cases pending with the SCCS will not be admitted until the SCCS case has been fully adjudicated.

Fitness to Teach Policy

The College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) has a responsibility to the educational community to ensure that individuals whom the University recommends to the State of Texas for teaching certification are fit to join the teaching profession. All teacher candidates in the UTSA Teacher Certification Program are expected to demonstrate that they are prepared to teach children and youth. This preparation results from the combination of successful completion of University
coursework and the demonstration of important human characteristics and dispositions all teachers should possess. The UTSA Fitness to Teach policy addresses these important aspects of teacher preparation. The Fitness to Teach policy (http://education.utsa.edu/certification_program/fitness_to_teach_policy) can be accessed from the COEHD Web site.

COEHD Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) Exemption Guidelines for Students Seeking Admission to the Undergraduate Teacher Certification Program

Testing Exemptions

ACT Composite – 23 English and Math part scores – 19. Taken within the last five years.

SAT Combined Score – 1070 and verbal scores of at least 500 and math scores of at least 500. Taken within the last five years.

TAAS Exit Level Scale Scores: Math = TLI X–86; Reading = TLI X–89; Writing = 1770. Taken within the last three years.

TAKS scaled score of at least 2200 on the mathematics section (for math exemption) and scaled score of at least 2200 on the English Language Arts section (for reading and writing exemption). Taken within the last three years.

Exemption for Hearing Impaired Students

Hearing impaired students who plan to enter a teacher certification program may substitute the Stanford Achievement Test for the THEA. Passing scores are as follows:

Reading Comprehension – 29

Mathematics – 66

Language – 37

Study Skills – 19