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 Interdisciplinary Education (IDED) Advising Center. 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/) or on the COEHD Web site under Certification Programs (http://education.utsa.edu/certification_program). Individuals seeking secondary certification should complete the bachelor’s degree requirements in their academic specialization while coordinating with the IDED Advising Center to fulfill 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 IDED Advising 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);
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. having completed 12-15 hours of content coursework. Math and Science certification tracks must have 15 hours completed;
7. submitting authorization for a Texas Department of Public Safety criminal background report;
8. having no active case pending with the UTSA’s Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS);
9. attaining minimum passing scores on one of the following: THEA, ACCUPLACER, SAT or ACT;
10. demonstrating English Language Proficiency by earning a “C-” or better in a public speaking course (WRC 1013, COM 1043, COM 1053, COM 2123, COM 2113). Credit for WRC 1013 through AP or CLEP will not be accepted.
11. 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
12. 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 IDED Advising 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.