

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What happens next?

After your application has been submitted, your application will then be reviewed to ensure that all academic requirements are met. The review process takes approximately 7 business days (depending on number and complexity of transcripts). Notification is sent via email.

### What do I do if my transcripts are from a foreign country?

A course-by-course transcript evaluation and grade-point average (GPA) calculation from an acceptable transcript evaluation company must accompany the application if any courses on the transcript(s) are from a foreign university. [Foreign Credentials Services](#) Evaluations are the responsibility and the expense of the individual applicant. Evaluations must include the educational degree equivalencies.

### What else is needed if my transcripts are from a non-English speaking institution?

All applicants with transcripts from a non-English speaking institution must provide a score of 24 or better on the Speaking portion, 22 for listening, 22 for reading and 21 for the writing of the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL IBT). Information about this test may be found at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

### If I do not have all the necessary coursework at this time, may I still submit an application?

Yes, but only if you will graduate or complete required coursework in the semester for which you are applying. All other application requirements must be met for the application to be considered.

### Is there a grade point average (GPA) requirement for this program? Am I automatically excluded if I don't meet this requirement?

The GPA requirement for our program is 2.5 overall. If an applicant does not meet this requirement, he or she may also qualify with a GPA of 2.75 in the last 60 hours of coursework. (Each entering class/cohort must have a minimum cohort average of 3.0.)

A GPA lower than the required 2.5 does not automatically disqualify an applicant however it is used as a screening measure and we are only able to take a very limited number of applicants who do not meet this measure.

### Does submitting an application packet automatically guarantee admittance into the program?

No. Submitting an application packet begins the application process. Once completed applications are received, applications and transcripts will be reviewed for eligibility, and an appointment for an interview will be scheduled. Then, candidates will be notified by email of acceptance status. Meeting the academic requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.

### **What if I don't meet the admissions criteria?**

Applicants who do not meet the admissions criteria are notified by email. If an applicant is denied admission and believes that there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered, a request for appeal may be submitted to the Teacher Certification Department. The letter should include the reason for requesting further consideration and evidence that would support the applicant's potential to be an effective teacher.

### **What is the cost of the program?**

The application fee of \$100 is required with the application in order for it to be processed. The cost of the program itself is \$5220. The first non-refundable payment of \$495 will be required at Orientation, plus a TEA Technology fee 35.00. Payments of \$393.75 per month begin the month after Orientation.

### **What types of financial assistance are available?**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board offers a loan program to assist with the cost of the program. The loan program is not based on financial need. Applicants must be able to provide a credit report with a good rating. <http://www.hhloans.com/>

### **Does Region 7 place teacher interns with school districts?**

No, after acceptance into the Region 7 TPCP, each applicant is responsible for securing his/her own employment in Regions 7 or 8 public school districts, charter schools or Texas Education Agency accredited private schools. Teacher intern employment information is shared with Region 7 school districts. Approved applicants may begin the instructional training phase of the program without needing to have secured a position. The Region 7 TPCP staff assists with employment by notifying teacher interns of job openings, providing resume writing tips, and providing interview tips.

### **During the teacher internship, am I paid a salary?**

During the internship year, the teacher-intern secures a position with a district as a teacher of record with full pay and full benefits.

Upon successful completion of the internship year, program requirements and state licensing requirements, participants will earn a Standard teaching certificate in their teaching assignment/certification area.

### **When will I begin receiving my salary?**

Teachers, in general, are paid on a monthly basis on the last working day of the month. First-year teachers typically receive their first paycheck at the end of September even though they may have begun working in August.

### **What kind of salary can I expect to earn?**

All school districts pay a minimum state base salary; many districts pay above state base. Please check with individual districts about their respective salary scales and benefits packages.

### **Will the program require much time commitment?**

Yes, the Teacher Preparation and Certification Program is an intense, high-quality program. Teacher interns will be expected to attend at least 6 hours of training *one* Saturday a month September – May along with online training, as well as training hours in the summer. The program is designed for highly committed candidates who are able to excel in an intense, fast-paced instructional environment.

### **When should I start applying for a job?**

It is appropriate to begin contacting school districts once you have received a letter from the Teacher Preparation and Certification Program that indicates that you are highly qualified and eligible for employment. You will need to be prepared to submit a copy of your acceptance letter along with your application to prospective school districts.

### **What if I am not able to secure a teaching position?**

Candidates who are not able to secure a teaching position for the current school year will continue with the program by attending training, completing assignments, making payments and taking TExES exams. Candidates who have passed all exams and completed training may consider clinical teaching in lieu of an internship.

### **If I'm certified in another state, do I need to go through the Region 7 program?**

You may not need to. Please contact the Texas Education Agency for a review of your credentials. In most cases, you will not need to go through a certification program. Information regarding Texas certification for educators coming from other states can be found at [TEA Out-of-State Certified Educators](#)

### **If I'm certified in another state or country, do I need to go through the Region 7 program?**

You may not need to. Please contact the Texas Education Agency for a review of your credentials. In most cases, you will not need to go through a certification program. Information regarding Texas certification for educators coming from other countries can be found at [TEA Out-of-Country Certified Educators](#)

**Will the program require much of a time commitment?**

Yes, the Teacher Preparation Certification Program (TPCP) is an intense, high-quality program. In addition to the 30 hours of observations, interns will be expected to attend, one Saturday month during the school year and complete the online training. The program is designed for highly committed candidates who are able to excel in a fast-paced training environment.

**When are classes held? Are they face to face or online?**

About 1/3 of TPCP classes are held online. About 2/3 of TPCP classes are held face to face. Face to face classes is held on one Saturday a month from 8:30 – 4:00 and 12 days in the summer. This schedule allows TPCP interns to continue working at their current job while attending training classes before the teaching year begins.

**What if I have to miss some classes?**

Attendance at all TPCP class sessions is required. When a participant misses a class session, he/she must make up the content in that session with similar instructional content. It must be approved by the program specialist in advance of attending the make-up session. Class attendance takes precedence over campus or district instructions, meetings, or activities.

**Where are the classes held?**

All classes are held at the Region 7 Education Service Center, 1909 N. Longview St., Kilgore, TX 75662

**Is my certificate different if I go through an alternative certification program?**

No, you will earn the same standard teaching certificate that teachers going through a traditional program earn. Alternative certification is an alternative route to certification, not a different type of certification.

**Do principals really hire people who go through an alternative certification program?**

Yes, over half of current Texas teachers are certified through alternative routes to certification.