

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

USAO offers 12 programs in teacher certification, including art, business, physical education (PHED), language arts, math, music (vocal and/or instrumental), science, social studies, elementary, early childhood, and deaf education. Major requirements for a teaching certificate in these areas can be found on the respective program's checklist and in the *Teacher Education Handbook*.

Students enrolling in PK-12 and for secondary education certification should understand that these are only certification programs, not degree programs. PK-12 (art, music, deaf education and physical education) and secondary education (business, language arts, math, science, and social studies) students must also satisfy the requirements for their degree areas. Students should consult the area advisor for the degree and certification checklists.

All USAO teacher certification programs are accredited by both the Oklahoma Commission on Teacher Preparation and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. However, the requirements for a teaching certificate are subject to change by the various state agencies. Therefore, those seeking certification should consult the Director of Teacher Education before developing a degree plan.

The *Teacher Education Handbook*, available from the USAO Print Shop, provides further information concerning the program and its requirements.

Information about the required tests and scores can be obtained from the Teacher Education Office or a teacher education faculty member.

All certification programs include a foreign language competence requirement and a portfolio.

All requirements for teacher certification programs are subject to change if new requirements are established by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

Teacher Certification in K-12 and Secondary Education

USAO does not offer degrees in K-12 or Secondary Education. However, students may obtain teaching certificates in the academic areas of: arts; business; health, physical education and recreation (HPER); language arts; math; music (vocal and/or instrumental); science; and social Studies. Major requirements for a teaching certificate in these areas can be found on the respective program check sheet and in the *Teacher Education Handbook*. In some instances fewer or additional courses are required. See your advisor for a program check sheet and the specific requirements for the certification program in these areas.

Teaching Certificate Programs

USAO has approved programs for teaching certificates in the following areas:

PK-3 Certificate Education	Early Childhood
1-8 Certificate	Elementary Education
Elementary-Secondary Certificate (Grades PK-12) Education, Music	Art, Physical
Secondary Certificate (Grades 5-12)	Mathematics
Secondary Certificate (Grades 6-12)	Business Education, English, Science, Social Studies
Special Education Certificates (Grades PK-12)	Education of the Deaf

Admission to Teacher Education

Students declaring an interest in teacher education should enroll in "Orientation to Teaching," a course designed to acquaint them with the many facets of teaching as a profession. Upon completion of the minimum requirements, the student makes formal application to enter the Teacher Education Program. Applications are available in the Teacher Education Office.

Minimum requirements for admission to Teacher Education are:

1. completion of 30 semester hours;
2. an overall grade-point average of 2.5 for the last 24 semester hours;
3. successful completion of the following courses with a grade of "C" or better:
 IDS 1013, Rhetoric and Public Speaking
 IDS 1113, Writing I
 IDS 1213, Writing II
 IDS 1223, Mathematics in the Modern World
 or their equivalents;
4. completion of the Oral English and Speech Screening;
5. recommendations by three faculty members and one public school teacher or administrator;
6. satisfaction of the Admission Test requirement; and
7. satisfaction of the English Proficiency requirement.

Requirements for Student Teaching

For student-teaching approval, an overall average of 2.50 on coursework is required, with an average of 2.75 in the major area. Other requirements are listed in the *Teacher Education Handbook*.

Certification Requirements

Students may qualify for an initial Oklahoma teaching certificate if they:

1. complete a teacher certification program,
2. pass the Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET), the Oklahoma Subject Area Test(s) (OSAT), *and* the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam (OPTE),
3. satisfy the requirement for foreign language competency,
4. submit an acceptable professional portfolio to the Director of Teacher Education, *and*
5. submit fingerprints for a background check to the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

TEACHER EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL OPTION

The federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the "No Child Left Behind" Act, requires paraprofessionals working as teacher assistants in school districts to be highly qualified. Oklahoma's Legislature recognizes that public school paraprofessionals play an important role in education school children and in assisting teachers. An Oklahoma Title I Paraprofessional Credential is available to persons meeting the following requirements:

1. Has a high school diploma or GED diploma,
2. Has met a career development paraprofessional program approved by the State Board of Education, *and*
3. Has on file with the OSDE a current Oklahoma criminal history record from the OSBI as well as a National fingerprint-based criminal history record provided by the FBI.

The second requirement can be met by completing at least 48 hours of study at an institution of higher education. Successful completion of the following **Paraprofessional Core** of classes at USAO would prepare a candidate for employment as a paraprofessional in a school classroom or for Admission to the Teacher Education Program toward full teacher licensure:

IDS 1001	Freshman Orientation
IDS 1013	Rhetoric and Public Speaking
IDS 1113	Writing I
IDS 1213	Writing II
IDS 1133	The Individual in Contemporary Society
IDS 1223	Math in the Modern World
IDS 2003	Introduction to Computer Science
IDS 2013	Physical Science
IDS 2023	Life Science
IDS2133	American Civilization I
EDUC 2002	Orientation to Teaching
EDUC 2011	Directed Field Experience I

EDUC 2022 Education of the Exceptional Child
EDUC 2103 Human Growth and Development

12 hours of Electives, recommended to include:

IDS 2143 American Civilization II

Begin a foreign language

6 hours in one area of interest,

i.e. candidates desiring to work with children in pre-school, elementary or middle school should consider:

MATH 2113 Number Systems and Problem Solving and

EDUC 2323 Reading I

Applications for the credential are available in Gary Hall 206.