



ACCESS

Alternative Certification Curriculum to Ensure Student Success

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Alternative Certification Curriculum to Ensure Student Success (ACCESS) Program at Dallas Christian College provides highly qualified individuals with a bachelor degree the opportunity to launch a successful career in education with Texas public school certification. The need for effective teachers in Texas is critical and widely acknowledged. The need for teachers who experience confidence and joy in teaching because of successful, research-based practices is even more critical to retaining those teachers in Texas schools. The ACCESS Program will provide opportunities for teacher candidates to pursue a career in education while making a positive contribution to a local school. The ACCESS Program is based on the standards for Texas educators and is fully approved by the Texas Education Agency and the State Board for Educator Certification and qualified to provide standard Texas Teacher Certifications to eligible candidates. The Education Department of DCC provides the ACCESS Program. For more information, please contact the Education Department at DCC.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Students in the program will be able to do the following:

- Complete the program in as few as 12 months
- Attend classes in an eight-week block format
- Teach as an intern or student teacher in a SACS-accredited/TEA-approved public or private school
- Learn from faculty members who are professional practitioners in the teaching field
- Receive individualized support from a Mentor or Master Teacher and a College Supervisor
- Complete program for consideration as a public school teacher in Texas
- Gain satisfaction from fulfilling an educational goal

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Application to DCC's ACCESS Program entails two phases of admissions. First, the applicant must apply to DCC as a student fulfilling all the admissions requirements of the college. Second, the applicant must fulfill all the admissions requirements of the Education Department of DCC, including completing a screening process and meeting the academic criteria necessary to enter the ACCESS Program.

SCREENING PROCESS

Applicants to the ACCESS Program must meet the following criteria and complete the following procedures to be eligible for admittance:

1. Submit the following:
 - Completed application form with non-refundable application fee
 - Current resume showing full- and part-time work experiences
 - Completed form for a criminal background check
 - Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
Foreign transcripts must be translated and evaluated at the applicant's expense.
 - Acceptable THEA (formerly TASP) scores
TOEFL scores if applicable
 - Two letters of recommendation, one personal, one professional/academic
 - Signed statement indicating support for the Christian mission of DCC to integrate faith and learning
2. Participate in an oral screening interview designed to assess oral language and social interaction and communication skills

3. Participate in a written screening interview by responding appropriately to one written question
4. Documentation of 30 clock hours of experience and observation with students at the same level and grade for which certification is sought. Observation hours must be completed at an accredited school.

All admissions criteria apply to all applicants. The DCC Education Department will evaluate each applicant in a fair and consistent manner.

ACADEMIC CRITERIA

All applicants to the ACCESS Program must provide official documentation of the following academic requirements for admission:

- Bachelor's degree or above from an accredited college or university approved by the U.S. Department of Education
- Completion of 24 or more hours of content coursework relevant to certification area
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all content coursework
- Minimum THEA (or TASP) scores of 260 in reading, 230 in math, and 220 in writing
- Minimum TOEFL score of 500 if applicable
- Completion of Critical Thinking Test at an acceptable score
- Strong communication skills demonstrated in admission interviews
- Passing score on the Pre-Admittance Content Test (PACT)*

*** PRE-ADMISSION CONTENT TEST (PACT)**

Teacher candidates in Texas must pass 2 (Content Test plus Professional and Pedagogical Responsibilities Test) state teacher certification exams (TExES).

A candidate must have a passing score on the TExES Content exam before he/she may student teach. With the accelerated format of ACCESS classes, many candidates will be eligible for student teaching in August following completion of coursework in July. The PACT is the same as the TExES Content exam for teacher certification; however, the PACT is the Content exam that may be taken by teacher candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree or higher and who have not yet begun teacher certification classes.

The last administration date for some (not all) PACT tests is mid-April; other PACT tests may be taken as late as mid-May. All PACT scores must be received in the DCC Education Department no later than May 30.

In most instances, candidates must reside in Texas in order to be eligible for PACT; candidates who do not reside in Texas should contact the Dallas Christian College ACCESS staff for details.

PACT candidates should register online at www.texas.ets.org. Study materials are available for download free of charge at 2 websites: www.texas.ets.org/ or www.tea.state.tx.us/. The current charge for PACT is \$120.00; prices are subject to change without notice by the Educational Testing Service.

For additional information about PACT, candidates should contact the DCC Education Department at 972-241-3371, ext. 111 or 102 or vmarsall@dallas.edu.

CONTENT AREAS FOR CERTIFICATION

DCC's ACCESS Program focuses on assisting teacher candidates with the required proficiency in any one of the following areas to meet the requirements of the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TExES:

1. **Early Childhood to Grade 6**
 - Generalist
2. **Grades 4 through 8 – Middle School**
 - Generalist
 - English Language Arts and Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
3. **Grades 8 through 12 – High School**
 - English Language Arts and Reading (April 16 PACT only)
 - Mathematics
 - History
 - Science
 - Life Science
 - Physical Science (April 16 PACT only)
 - Social Studies (April 16 PACT only)
4. **All Level—Early Childhood through grade 12**
 - Art (April 16 PACT only)
 - Music
 - Physical Education

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ACCESS APPLICATION FEE

Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of \$50 (includes college application fee) at the time of application.

REGISTRATION FEE

Accepted applicants must pay a non-refundable registration fee of \$350 due prior to beginning ACCESS Program.

TUITION COSTS

Unless financial aid covers the balance due or optional payment plans are in place, tuition is due at registration prior to beginning ACCESS Program. The \$4,995 tuition package covers the costs of the application, registration fee, 27 credit hours, training, internship or student teaching within 50 miles of the Dallas Christian College campus. Candidates who choose to complete an internship or student teaching farther than 50 miles from the DCC campus will be charged an additional supervision fee of \$500.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

The following Texas Education Agency costs are in addition to the ACCESS tuition package:

- THEA Test fee

- PACT Content TExES fee (Teacher Certification test)
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TExES fee (2nd required Teacher Certification test)
- Standard Certification Application fee
- Probationary Certification fee (for interns only)

The following ACCESS costs are in addition to the ACCESS tuition package:

- Critical Thinking Test fee
- Supervision fee (if applicable)
- Textbooks

ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD TO 6TH GRADE 27 hours

EDUC 4363	Professional Expectations and Ethics
EDUC 4349	Curriculum Design
EDUC 4359	Teaching and Learning
EDUC 4362	Teaching Diverse Learners
EDUC 4360	Teaching Literacy Skills
EDUC 4361	Educational Assessment
EDUC 4354	Systems Management
EDUC 4605	Professional Internship or <i>EDUC 4610 Early Childhood/Elementary Student Teaching</i>

4TH TO 8TH GRADE 27 hours

EDUC 4363	Professional Expectations and Ethics
EDUC 4346	Curriculum Design
EDUC 4356	Teaching and Learning
EDUC 4362	Teaching Diverse Learners
EDUC 4360	Teaching Literacy Skills
EDUC 4361	Educational Assessment
EDUC 4351	Systems Management
EDUC 4602	Professional Internship or <i>EDUC 4615 Middle School Student Teaching</i>

8TH TO 12TH GRADE 27 hours

EDUC 4363	Professional Expectations and Ethics
EDUC 4347	Curriculum Design
EDUC 4357	Teaching and Learning
EDUC 4362	Teaching Diverse Learners
EDUC 4360	Teaching Literacy Skills
EDUC 4361	Educational Assessment
EDUC 4352	Systems Management
EDUC 4603	Professional Internship or <i>EDUC 4620 Secondary Student Teaching</i>

EARLY CHILDHOOD TO 12TH GRADE 27 hours

EDUC 4363	Professional Expectations and Ethics
EDUC 4348	Curriculum Design
EDUC 4358	Teaching and Learning
EDUC 4362	Teaching Diverse Learners
EDUC 4360	Teaching Literacy Skills
EDUC 4361	Educational Assessment
EDUC 4353	Systems Management
EDUC 4604	Professional Internship or <i>EDUC 4630 All-Level Student Teaching</i>