



ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Alternative Certification Program (ACP) 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. DCC's Alternative Certification Program will provide opportunities for teacher candidates to pursue a career in education while making a positive contribution to a local school. The 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 E.L. and Sue Derr Teacher Education Department of DCC provides the Alternative Certification Program.

Upon completion of the program, students will achieve the following program objectives:

Alternative Certification Program Learning Objectives

Students will:

1. Demonstrate their understanding of instructional planning and delivery by providing standards-based, data-driven, differentiated instruction that engages students, makes appropriate use of technology, and makes learning relevant for today's learners
2. Work to ensure high levels of learning, social-emotional development, and achievement outcomes for all students, taking into consideration each student's educational and developmental backgrounds and focusing on each student's needs
3. Exhibit a comprehensive understanding of their content, discipline, and related pedagogy as demonstrated through the quality of the design and execution of lesson plans and their ability to match objectives and activities to relevant state standards
4. Interact with students in respectful ways at all times, maintaining a physically and emotionally safe, supportive learning environment that is characterized by efficient and effective routines, clear expectations for student behavior, and organization that maximizes student learning
5. Use formal and informal methods to assess student growth aligned to instructional goals and course objectives and regularly review and analyze multiple sources of data to measure student progress and adjust instructional strategies and content delivery as needed
6. Consistently hold themselves to a high standard for individual development, pursue leadership opportunities, collaborate with other educational professionals, communicate regularly with stakeholders, maintain professional relationships, comply with all campus and school district policies, and conduct themselves ethically and with integrity
7. Evidence knowledge of both public and private educational philosophy and systems

For more information, please contact the E.L. and Sue Derr Teacher Education Department at DCC.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

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

- Complete the program coursework online
- Attend classes in an eight-week block format
- Teach as an intern (one full academic year [180 days]) or student teacher (14 consecutive weeks) 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

Cohort system accepting applications upon availability.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Application to DCC's Alternative Certification 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 E.L. and Sue Derr Teacher Education Department of DCC, including meeting the following criteria.

ACADEMIC CRITERIA

All applicants to DCC's Alternative Certification Program must provide official documentation of the following academic requirements for admission:

- Completed DCC application (<http://www.dallas.edu/admissions>)
- Completed DCC Teacher/ACP application
- Statement of Teaching Philosophy (typed, 12-point font, double-spaced)
- Bachelor's degree or above from an accredited college or university approved by the U.S. Department of Education (including official transcripts from all colleges and university attended)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- 3.00 content GPA
- Minimum grade of "B" (3.0) or better in ENGL-1310 Composition I, ENGL-1320 Composition II, and SPCH-2310 Speech
- Completed Program Sheet for advisement
- Three completed candidate evaluations
- Scheduled admission interviews
- Pre-Admittance Content Test (PACT)*

*Must be taken and passed prior to admission.

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

Alternative teacher education candidates in Texas must pass the Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT) in the area of desired certification before admission to the Alternative Certification Program.

A Texas Education Agency (TEA) ID number is used for identification throughout the certification and exam registration process. You must know your TEA ID to set up your testing account. If you are registering for the first time, you must go to https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Certification/Educator_Certification_Online_System (ECOS for Educators) and create a TEA login (TEAL) account. When the account has been created, the student will complete an Educator Profile and obtain a TEA ID number. Once the TEA ID number is obtained, the student must go to the online registration system for the test vendor (https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Certification/Educator_Testing/Test_Registration_and_Preparation). For help with TEAL account access, please go to <https://helpdesk.tea.texas.gov/hc/en-us/categories/200929903-TEAL-Access>.

For additional information about PACT, candidates should contact the DCC E.L. and Sue Derr Teacher Education Department at 972-241-3371.

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**
 - Core Subjects EC-6
2. **Grades 4 through 8 – Middle School**
 - Core Subjects 4-8
 - English Language Arts and Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Studies
3. **Grades 7 through 12 – High School**
 - English Language Arts and Reading
 - Mathematics
 - History
 - Science
 - Life Science
 - Physical Science
 - Social Studies
4. **All Level—Early Childhood through grade 12**
 - Art
 - Music
 - Physical Education

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

APPLICATION FEE

Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of \$30 (college application fee) at the time of application.

TUITION COSTS

The \$3,500 tuition package covers the costs of the courses (21 credit hours), training, and internship or student teaching (9 credit hours) within 50 miles of the Dallas Christian College campus. Full payment or payment arrangements must be made in advance of beginning any coursework.

REQUIRED FEES

In addition to the tuition package, there is a \$600 (minimum) fee for students completing a professional internship or a \$400 (minimum) fee for students completing student teaching. 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 \$285.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

The following costs are in addition to the Alternative Certification Program tuition package:

- Outside Program Tutoring
- Supplies
- Textbooks

The following Texas Education Agency (TEA) costs are also in addition to the Alternative Certification Program's tuition package:

- PACT Content TExES test fee (ACP entrance exam only)
- TExES Content/Pedagogy test fee
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TExES test fee
- Science of Teaching Reading Test (STR) test fee*
- State of Texas edTPA Portfolio fee (or DCC-designated portfolio)
- TEA Training and Documentation fees
- Intern Certification fee (one-year certificate for interns only)
- Texas Standard Certification application fee

**Applies to Core Subjects EC-6, Core Subjects 4-8, and English Language Arts and Reading 4-8 only*

NOTE: Upon successful completion of the program, the teacher candidate will be recommended for certification to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC). It is the student's responsibility to apply for certification with TEA.

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30 hours

EDUC-4301	Educational Technology
EDUC-4309	Discipline and Classroom Management (EC-12)
EDUC-4319	Methodology (EC-12)
EDUC-4358	Teaching and Learning (EC-12)
EDUC-4362	Teaching Diverse Learners (EC-12)
EDUC-4363	Professional Expectations and Ethics
EDUC-4360	Teaching Literacy Skills or <i>EDUC-4320 Foundations of Reading</i>
EDUC-4904	Professional Internship (EC-12) or <i>EDUC-4930 All-Level Student Teaching (EC-12)</i>