

Alternative Certification Checklist

SECONDARY

BIOLOGY CERTIFICATION (Grades 9-12)



Education department

ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION STUDENTS ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE TO TAKE COURSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION. NON-CERTIFICATION COURSES ARE NOT COVERED BY FINANCIAL AID.

Content Area Requirements: Must pass the Praxis for Biology (#5236) (or the MoCA #16 prior to July 2024) for admission to the Alternative Certification Program.

Professional Education Coursework: Alternative Certification students may choose to take the Graduate equivalency to the undergraduate courses required for certification; graduate equivalencies will apply both towards certification and masters' degree. Ex. EDUC 200 = EDUC 542; 542 will meet certification requirement and apply towards MAT degree. Equivalent courses are in the "Grad Equivalent" column. Note: not all certification courses have graduate equivalencies.

Grade	Course #	Course Title	Cr Hrs	Grad Equivalent	Field Experience (observation hrs) included
	SOCI 270	Diversity and Society	3	EDUC 555	none
	EDUC 100	Introduction to Education*	3	n/a	15 hrs
	EDUC 200	Law, Ethics, and Education (<i>field experience added to 542</i>)	3	EDUC 542	15 hrs in 542
	EDUC 220	Methods of Teaching English Learners (<i>NOTE: if EDUC 542 taken prior to Fall 2020, EDUC 220/520 not required</i>)	3	EDUC 520	none
	EDUC 230	Educational Psychology	3	EDUC 560	none
	EDUC 300	Techniques of Teaching*	3	EDUC 505	15 hrs
	EDUC 390	Education & Psychology of the Exceptional Child	3	EDUC 525	none
	Choose option	EDUC 396 - Child and Adolescent Development or EDUC 391 - Child Psychology and EDUC 392 - Adolescent Psychology	3	EDUC 550	none
Admission to the Teacher Certification Program (See Teacher Certification Program checklist)					
	EDUC 311	Classroom Management Techniques	3	EDUC 563	15 hrs
	EDUC 322	Educational Measurement and Assessment	3	EDUC 580	none
	EDUC 338	Content Reading and Writing	3	EDUC 516	15 hrs
	EDUC 365	Teaching Middle School and Secondary Science	3	n/a	15 hrs
	EDUC 375	Advanced Content Methods	3	n/a	15 hrs
	EDUC 376	Adolescent Literacy	3	EDUC 578	none
	EDUC 400	Senior Seminar	3	n/a	none
Approval for Student Teaching (See Student Teaching Checklist)					
	EDUC 425	Undergraduate Student Teaching	12/9	EDUC 698	16 weeks
		Total Credit Hours	51-57		
Approval for DESE certification recommendation (See DESE Certification checklist)					

***If EDUC 300 is taken, EDUC 100 is required; if EDUC 505 is taken, EDUC 100 is not required.**

Retention Criteria:

- Complete at least 6 hours of professional education each year

- Complete Field Experiences and receive favorable evaluations from cooperating teachers and college supervisors
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above in professional education courses

Other requirements that must be completed prior to certification:

- Successful completion/passing of appropriate content area assessment
- Successful completion of program certification performance assessment – MEES

Other Requirements:

Alternative Certification students completing the FAFSA to receive financial aid for certification must complete the following questions on the 2025-26 FAFSA accordingly:

Section 4 – Student College or Career School Plans:

- “When the student begins the 2025-26 school year, what will their college grade level be?” – Answer “Other undergraduate (junior year and beyond)”
- “When the student begins the 2025-26 school year, will they already have their first bachelor’s degree?” – Answer “Yes”
- “Will the student be pursuing an initial teaching certification at the elementary or secondary level?” – Answer “Yes”

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree

If you are planning to pursue the MAT degree after certification you will need to relay that information to your Education advisor since that may determine how many certification courses you should take at the graduate level. (In some cases, taking all of the graduate options would result in your taking more than the 36 hours needed for the degree.) The MAT degree requires a total of 36 hours of EDUC coursework at the graduate level which includes 15 hours of core courses (EDUC 500, 504, 508, 555, and 560). Therefore, be sure to take EDUC 555 (instead of SOCI 270) and EDUC 560 (instead of EDUC 230) since they work both for certification and the MAT degree. The other graduate-level courses for certification can be taken to count toward the 21 hours of electives required for the MAT. Recommend taking the following: EDUC 555 and EDUC 560 for the MAT core, and EDUC 698 and four additional graduate-level courses from this certification checklist for the MAT electives.)

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