



INSPIRE TEXAS
EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION BY REGION 4

TEACHER PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Admission & Program Requirements

What is the first step?

Review the program details and complete the online application.

What are the entrance requirements?

Review the Educator Certification website for a detailed list of requirements.

Is a bachelor's degree required?

Yes. The state requires that teachers hold a bachelor's degree.

What if I apply and do not have the minimum grade point average or required coursework?

If you do not meet the GPA entrance requirements, you will receive written notification that will include information regarding what you need to do to meet the minimum entrance requirements.

If I am not accepted, can I appeal the decision?

If you are denied admission and believe that there are extenuating circumstances that should be considered, a request for appeal may be submitted.

Can I begin the training while I am taking the required coursework to meet the entrance requirements?

No. You must meet admission requirements and complete all required coursework prior to the beginning of training.

How does the program work?

Approved candidates attend approximately 12–21 weeks of training and begin seeking a teaching position as a 1-year paid intern or a 12-week unpaid clinical teacher. Both positions include a team of educators assisting and supporting the candidate. At the end of the required period of time, if all program requirements have been met, the teacher is recommended to the State Board for Educator Certification for teacher certification.

How long does it take?

The program takes approximately 7–18 months, depending on the method of training, the teaching field, and the type of teaching chosen (internship or clinical teaching).

How do I obtain an application?

The application is an electronic process. Click the Apply Online link on the left menu bar of this page.

What do I need to provide to Inspire Texas after I submit my application?

» Official transcripts from ALL colleges attended, or, if your degree is from outside of the United States, an official credential evaluation, including a course-by-course evaluation; all transcripts must be provided in SEALED envelopes.

» A self-addressed stamped envelope to have transcripts returned (one SASE per mailing), if desired

» Criminal history: documentation of the court case and a brief explanation of the offense, if applicable

» English language assessment information (check Admission & Program Requirements for more details)

» Applicants with teaching experience must submit a service record

Can I open my transcripts and send them directly to Inspire Texas?

You may provide Inspire Texas with transcripts, or you may have them sent directly from the universities or colleges. However, all transcripts must be provided in SEALED envelopes. Do not open the transcripts.

Can I have my transcripts sent back to me?

Yes, if a self-addressed stamped envelope is sent to Region 4 Education Service Center along with your transcripts. Please note that 90 days from the date of receipt, Region 4 otherwise destroys all documents sent by applicants during the application process.

My final transcript shows the classes I took at a previous college. Do I still have to obtain a transcript from the first college?

Yes. You are required to submit official transcripts from all colleges attended.

What if my courses were earned in quarter credits?

Multiply the credit hours by 2, then divide by 3 to convert quarter credits to semester hours.

What if my grades were given as pass/fail or credit/no credit?

Multiply the number of hours earned by 2.5 to get the grade points for that course.

Can advanced placement and credit by exam courses be counted toward the content area?

Yes, if a university gives course credit and it appears on a college transcript.

How long does it take to review my application?

It takes approximately 15 business days from the time that all transcripts have been received.

What happens after my application is reviewed?

You either will be notified that you have met the academic requirements or will be sent a letter of disapproval. If you are approved, you are then eligible to begin the preservice training.

How long is my application active?

Your application will remain active for 1 year after the date it was received.

When are applications due?

Applications are accepted year-round. If approved, you are eligible to begin the next available training session.

Teaching Fields & Certification

What teaching fields (certification areas) are available?

Under the general Teacher tab, please review the Teacher Certification page for a current list of certification areas.

Can I get certified in more than one teaching field?

You may apply for a review of multiple areas of certification. When registering for training, you must choose one or in some instances two areas of certification, depending on the training required. In order to be certified in both areas, you must complete the training and an internship in each area. We do not allow for certification in more than two areas. After you finish the program and obtain your standard certification, additional areas can be added to your certificate by taking the appropriate content exams.

What if I want to change areas of certification prior to training?

Submit a \$10 check or money order and a written request to be reviewed for another area. If you already were reviewed for another area and qualify, submit a written request to change your area of certification.

How do I complete the program and become a certified teacher?

When you have successfully completed all internship requirements, you will be recommended to the State Board for Educator Certification for a standard teaching certificate.

Can I take exams in other areas and become certified in those areas, too?

Once you have successfully completed the program, you are eligible to take exams in other areas without going through additional training.

What if I do not pass one of the state exams?

If you are not able to complete all program requirements by the end of the internship year as scheduled, including passing the state exams, you must request an internship extension in order to fulfill the requirements.

I have been teaching on a permit (or another method) for 3 years. Can I still submit an application to this program?

Individuals who have taught for 3 years without obtaining certification are eligible only for the clinical teaching aspect of the program. Individuals who have completed 2 years of teaching should be aware that the internship program takes 2 semesters to complete, and thus they could be at risk of not completing their certification within the 3-year window.

Online Training

How does online training work?

Online training is web-based and is completed according to the student's schedule within a given time frame, as long as assignments are submitted by the deadline each week.

Classes must reach an enrollment minimum to begin. If the necessary number of students is not met by the start date, the class will begin on the next scheduled start date. The admissions office needs at least 10 business days to review an applicant's file and make a program acceptance decision.

How long does the training take?

The online training lasts approximately 18–19 weeks; some specific certification areas may last longer than others.

Students can log in 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Students must log in at least 5 days a week and will spend at least an average of 8 hours a week on their work.

How are the classes arranged?

Classes are taught using the Blackboard® platform via the Internet. Each week, students are taught a new module of the class and assignments are due.

What is the online student responsible for?

The student must log in at least 5 days a week, submit the assignments that are due at the end of each module, purchase and read the required textbooks, and participate in the discussion boards.

What is the online instructor responsible for?

The instructor is responsible for grading and providing feedback on assignments, answering questions about the assignments and the teaching field (certification area), and responding to comments made in the discussion boards.

The online instructors are teachers, administrators, and curriculum writers who have experience in the certification areas they are teaching.

How much does online training cost?

Online training fees are exactly the same as face-to-face training fees (refer to the Teacher Fees tab on the website).

Training & Teaching

What type of training is involved?

Preservice training focuses on teaching pedagogy, which includes sessions on classroom management, multicultural issues, lesson planning, and inclusion.

The majority of training takes place prior to the internship year or clinical teaching assignment. During the internship or clinical teaching, candidates participate in a 4-week online course.

Additional classroom management training is available if deemed necessary.

When do I register for preservice training?

Once you are officially accepted into the program, you will receive information on registering for preservice training.

Where is the training held?

Blended training is conducted at Region 4 Education Service Center, McKinney Conference Center, 7200 Northwest 100 Drive, Houston, Texas 77092, and also has an online component.

Training also is offered as a completely online option.

Do the two options provide the same training?

The content of all training is the same, including the online training.

In online training, the candidates benefit from completing the training at home with electronic interaction with the class and instructors.

In blended training, the candidates benefit from live interaction with the class and the instructor.

In all cases, the instructors are highly qualified practitioners in their fields.

Am I required to attend all classes?

Yes. Absences must be made up and may prevent the candidate from beginning the internship or clinical teaching.

Do I get paid while I am in training?

You are not paid until you begin a teaching internship.

I have been teaching for a while. Do I still have to do the observations and/or the training?

Yes—your current or past teaching experience will not exempt you from any of the training.

How long do I have to obtain employment after the end of training?

You must obtain employment within 3 years from the last day of preservice training. For instance, if you attend preservice training in the summer and it ends on July 31, 2015, you have until the summer of 2018 to obtain a position.

Can I teach while I am in training?

No. You must complete training prior to beginning the internship or clinical teaching.

Can I teach outside of the Region 4 area?

Yes. An internship or a clinical teaching position may be completed in any public school, charter school, or accredited private school in the state of Texas.

Does Inspire Texas help me get a job?

We communicate with local school districts and provide them with lists of approved candidates. An annual job fair also is held for all candidates. Inspire Texas does not guarantee employment.

Can I take a part-time teaching job?

To serve as an Inspire Texas teacher certification intern, you must teach a majority of the instructional day in your approved certification area(s). As an example, if the school has seven instructional periods per day, you must teach at least four periods.

Can I teach additional subject areas during my internship?

You must serve your internship in your approved certification area(s).

Can I coach while I am an intern?

First, you must be teaching a majority of the instructional day in your approved certification area(s). For coaching, if you are coaching a class for which students receive credit, you must hold the necessary credentials for the physical education class(es). If you are asked to coach for a class in which students are not receiving credit (for instance, an after-school volleyball team), you are allowed to do so if it does not interfere with your internship duties.

Can I move to another campus or district during my internship?

You are not allowed to change your district assignment during the 1-year internship or clinical teaching. You may change to another campus at the district's request or reassignment.

What if I have to take a leave-of-absence from the school during my internship year?

You are allowed to take the standard 6-week leave; if you miss more than 6 weeks, you will need to obtain an extension of your internship.

What kind of support will I receive during my internship?

During the internship year, Inspire Texas provides a team of educators to assist you, including a mentor, a campus administrator, and a Region 4 supervisor.

As a clinical teacher, you have a team that includes a cooperating teacher and a Region 4 supervisor.

Who assigns my mentor?

Your campus principal assigns a mentor. SBEC guidelines require that mentors be state-certified teachers.