



The Texas A&M University **Accelerate Online** Certification Program is an innovative approach to preparing secondary teachers for the state of Texas. Certification may be obtained in Life Science 8-12, Physical Science 8-12, Chemistry 8-12, Science 8-12, Mathematics 8-12, History 8-12, Social Studies 8-12, or English Language Arts and Reading 8-12. The program is designed to provide graduates and professionals possessing a bachelor's degree, as well as Texas A&M University students late in their undergraduate careers, with an accelerated online program of educator preparation that can be completed in approximately 18 months. **Accelerate Online** provides an individual the flexibility of completing teacher certification preparation through online instructional modules, a 40-hour field experience and a year-long paid internship in a secondary public school in Texas. Enrollment at Texas A&M University is not required to participate in **Accelerate Online**.

Accelerate Online is a preparation program and thus completion of the pre-internship training does not guarantee employment in a school district. Employment ultimately rests in the hands of the employing agency (i.e., the school district).

Admission Requirements

Applications for admission may be made throughout the year, however, the deadlines for admission are:

Completed Application Packet Must Be Received By	TExES Registration Deadline	TExES Administration	Orientation Meeting and Begin Modules	TExES Score Report Date for Multiple Choice Tests	Probable Intern Start Date
May 6, 2009	May 29, 2009	June 27, 2009	July 10, 2009	July 20, 2009	January 2010 or August 2010
July 8, 2009	July 31, 2009	August 29, 2009	September 4, 2009	September 21, 2009	January 2010 or August 2010
September 9, 2009	October 2, 2009	October 31, 2009	November 6, 2009	November 23, 2009	August 2010
November 23, 2009	January 8, 2010	February 6, 2010	February 12, 2010	March 1, 2010	August 2010
February 17, 2010	March 19, 2010	April 17, 2010	March 26, 2010	May 10, 2010	August 2010
May 5, 2010	May 28, 2010	June 26, 2010	July 16, 2010	July 19, 2010	January 2011 or August 2011

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant holds a baccalaureate degree in a discipline related to the intended certification area (Texas A&M University – College Station students can apply if they are within one year of completing a baccalaureate degree). Please note that a bachelor's degree is a requirement for certification.
- Graduates of foreign universities must have their transcripts evaluated by an approved agency. A list of foreign credential evaluation services can be found at:

<https://secure.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/certinfo/forcredevalservice.asp>.

When requesting an evaluation, be sure that the agency specifically states that you have received the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor's degree in your subject area AND provides a detailed course-by-course listing of all course work.

- Applicant must have successfully completed appropriate hours of content area/teaching field course work, as outlined on the Accelerate website.
- Applicant must have at least a 2.5 GPR in their baccalaureate course work attempted.
- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and reside in Texas.

**Texas Academic Skills Program Examination (TASP)
Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA)**

Undergraduate Applicants

- Applicant must pass all sections of the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) examination or the Texas Higher Education Assessment or an equivalent examination such as the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) or be exempt from TASP or THEA. Selected university courses completed with a grade of "A or B" within past five years may be substituted in lieu of a TASP or THEA examination passing score. More information regarding testing dates may be found at:

<http://www.thea.nesinc.com/>

- Minimum acceptable scores on the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) and Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) exam:

230 on each reading and mathematics
220 on writing

or meet one of the following options to establish mastery as defined by the State Board of Educator Certification:

- ACT score from a single sitting in the last five years must equal at least 23 with at least 19 per section.
- SAT scores from a single sitting in the last five years must equal at least 1070 with at least 500 per section.
- TAAS scale scores of TLI X-86 or higher in math, TLI X-89 or higher in reading and 1770 or higher in writing.
- Selected university courses completed with a grade of "A or B" within past five years may be substituted in lieu of a TASP examination passing score.
- ACT and SAT scores may be no more than five years old and exit-level TAAS scores may be no more than three years old.

Graduate Applicants

- The TASP is not an admission requirement for applicants possessing a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution as established by the Accelerate Online policy board.

Background check for criminal activity

- Applicant must pass a background check.

Letters of Recommendation

- The applicant will provide two letters of recommendation indicating the likelihood for success as a teacher.

Language Assessment

- Applicant must meet one of the following at the time of application.
 - Earned a baccalaureate degree in the United States.
 - Earned a baccalaureate degree from an English speaking institution (all transcripts must be in English and must include a letter from the university/evaluation company stating all instruction was in English).
 - Completed the following:
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL-iBT – www.toefl.org) with a total score of 90 and the following minimum section requirements:
 - Speaking: 26
 - Writing: 22
 - All other sections: 20

Computer Access

- Applicant has access to an Internet-capable computer (preferably a PC). Some lesson functions do not operate with Apple computers.

Program Fees

Non-refundable Application Fee To cover the cost of a background check	\$ 150
TExES Content Exam*	\$ 120*
Program Fee (Includes online training, supervisor, additional training and materials)	\$ 4320

Probationary Certification (includes fingerprinting fee) *	\$ 97*
TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam*	\$ 120*
Standard Certification*	\$ 75*
Total Program Cost	\$ 4882

* not payable to Texas A&M University

Electronic Fee Payment

The payment schedule for **Accelerate Online** has been divided into 12 monthly payments. The first payment will be due at the Program Orientation. Subsequent payments are due on the 15th of each month. If payment is received after the 15th of the month, a \$30.00 late fee will be charged for every 30 days the payment is late. An electronic payment system has been implemented which allows for payments to be made by any major credit card.

The Application Process

The first step in the application process is completion of an online interest form. Once the interest form is completed we will contact you regarding the required course work review. Following this review, we will provide information regarding the match between your course work and the certification areas that are offered through this program. The interest form can be accessed by clicking on the following link.

<http://surveys.cehd.tamu.edu/accelerate/interest.html>

Scheduled Interview and Acceptance Decision

Once the application packet is completed, the applicant will be contacted to schedule an interview with the **Accelerate Online** selection committee. The interview will take approximately 1 ½ – 2 hours. Applicants will complete a sample content exam on the day of the interview. Interview questions will reflect communication and interpersonal skills as well as career directions. Following the interview, you will be notified regarding your acceptance into **Accelerate Online**. An interview does not guarantee admission. The admission decision will be based on the contents of the completed application packet, scores on the sample content exam and the interview. The decision of the selection committee may not be appealed.

Preparing and Qualifying for Internship

Information regarding registration for the TExES content exam will be included with notification of acceptance. Upon acceptance into the program, you will be notified of the scheduled Program Orientation session you must attend. NOTE: Any student who does not successfully complete the TExES content examination will be required to complete remediation in order to address apparent deficiencies before attempting the examination a second time. In order to be eligible to begin an internship, a participant must pass the TExES content exam, complete all pre-service program components and secure a teaching position in a Texas public school.

Candidate Training and Internship

Training

Orientation

A **mandatory** orientation session will be held at Texas A&M University for those applicants accepted into the program. Policies and guidelines will be discussed, a secured password necessary for access to the online instructional modules will be issued and the required electronic portfolio will be initiated.

Candidate Training

Once given access to the instructional modules in the *e-Empowerment Zone*, candidates will be expected to make timely progress toward completion of the modules. Completion of **all** modules and submission of all associated artifacts is a requisite for employment by school districts.

Field Experience

It is strongly recommended that the candidate complete the first 5 instructional modules prior to beginning the required 40-hour early field experience (2 class periods each day for 4 consecutive weeks). This early field experience must take place in a Texas public school and in a classroom related to the grade level and certification area being pursued. Assignments for the early field experience will be posted in the candidate's electronic portfolio and will include the submission of formal classroom observations, lesson plans, reflections and other assigned activities. Candidates completing the early field experience in the Bryan/College Station area will be placed in a local public school. Candidates completing the early field experience in a distant location will be required to contact the central office of the desired district to establish the early field experience. Additional information regarding the early field experience will be provided at the program orientation meeting.

The early field experience and all submissions must be complete prior to starting an internship.

Internship Year

Employment

Accelerate Online interns complete a one-year teaching assignment in a Texas public school. It is the responsibility of the intern to secure employment with an accredited public school district although Accelerate Online staff provides support in locating positions. Admission to **Accelerate Online** does not guarantee employment as the hiring decision ultimately lies with school districts. The candidate becomes an intern after **completing all the preservice program components (modules, field experience, online internship workshop and all associated submissions)**, passing the TExES content exam and securing a position as a teacher in a Texas public school. Both semesters of the internship must be completed in the same school district.

Portfolio Development

Interns will be required to develop and expand an **ePortfolio** during their internship. Portfolios will serve as a resource for interns to share professional goals, interests, and classroom artifacts with supervisors and other cohort members. A formal review of the ePortfolio will be completed by the university supervisor as part of his/her evaluation. In addition, the web-based ePortfolio can be used to support future teacher evaluations or job seeking efforts.

Mentoring/Supervision

During the year, interns will be assigned a school district mentor and university supervisor. Additional members of the intern support team include supervising administrator and **Accelerate Online** staff. The supervisor will provide support and will evaluate the intern a minimum of six times throughout the year.

Mandatory Professional Development

- Prior to the beginning of the internship, interns will participate in training that will focus on internship requirements, instructional strategies, classroom management, and the first days of school.
- Interns will be required to participate in a minimum of 2 professional development activities per semester, as directed by the university supervisor and/or program coordinator.

Program Requirements

The **Accelerate Online intern** will be expected to:

- Complete all **Accelerate Online** instructional modules and the required early field experience in a Texas public school.
- Be in Texas and available to begin by designated date.
- Pass all certification exams required by the state of Texas (content and PPR).
- Attend and satisfactorily complete **all** required **Accelerate Online** training experiences, including those outlined by the university supervisor.
- Fulfill all of the requirements of a fulltime teacher as required by the state of Texas, the school district, the superintendent, and the principal.
- Develop a professional teacher portfolio (ePortfolio), meeting the rubric requirements of the program.

Certification Requirements

- Upon verification of employment by a public school district and completion of the pre-internship requirements, the intern will receive instructions about applying for **Probationary Certification** from the Program Coordinator.
- Upon successful completion of the internship year and remittance of all required payments, the intern will be recommended for **Standard Certification** in the appropriate content area. Successful completion is defined as: meeting all listed program requirements, obtaining recommendation from Accelerate Online, and passing all state required testing. Instructions for completing the application process for **Standard Certification** will be sent to the intern by the Program Coordinator.