

# Education – Alternative Certification Program

## Mission

The Southwestern Adventist University Education Department is committed to inspiring knowledge, faith, and service through Christ-centered education. Our mission is to prepare effective educators who are equipped for teaching in faith-based and/or public schools. The Alternative Certification Program is designed to prepare individuals for teacher certification in the State of Texas.

## Faculty/Staff

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## Alternative Certification Program for Texas Teacher Certification

The Alternative Certification Program (ACP) is an option for individuals seeking a Texas teaching credential, and who did not complete an Educator Preparation Program in their undergraduate studies. Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree and meet the requirements outlined below. A Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT) may be required prior to admission.

Pre-Admission Content Exam

The Law requires applicants to take and pass a PACT for admission into an EPP in the following cases:

1. If the applicant has a GPA below 2.5 **or**
2. If the applicant has not completed at least 12 semester credit hours in the subject area of the certificate the applicant is seeking (15 hours if seeking certification in math or science above 7th grade).

See the Texas Education Agency website for detailed information. (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/pre-admission-content-test>)

**Certification is available in the following areas:**

**Elementary Education, Early Childhood - 6th grade**

**Secondary Certification, 7th grade - 12th grade**

- English Language Arts and Reading
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Life Science

**All Level Certification - Kindergarten - 12th grade**

- Music
- Physical Education

# Education Certification Program Information

## Alternative Certification Program (ACP)

The ACP program is designed for individuals who have earned a B.S. or B.A. degree in a field outside of education and want to enter the teaching profession. The program is designed to prepare teachers for certification in elementary and secondary content areas. It is our goal to prepare individuals for certification in the State of Texas. All courses are completed online, with in-person requirements for field-based experience and clinical teaching.

The State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) establishes the teacher certification standards and grants the certification after students have passed the Texas teacher certification exams. The Alternative Certification Program (ACP) prepares and recommends students for certification when they have completed all requirements as stipulated by the Education Department at Southwestern Adventist University and Texas Education Agency.

## Admission Requirements

General admission requirements for all applicants and other requirements that are specific to your level and area of certification are outlined below. General admission requirements for all applicants are as follows:

**Bachelor's degree from an accredited university.** Applicants need an official transcript to verify the successful completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. Applicants who are currently completing degree requirements will not be admitted to (ACP) until the degree is confirmed.

- All applicants with degrees outside of the United States must have these degrees evaluated by an accredited evaluation service and admission to the alternative certification program will be determined by the results of the evaluation. An approved list of accredited evaluators may be obtained from the university registrar. Additional information may be obtained from **Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., P O Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI. 53203-3470. Tel: 414-289-3400.** If you have already completed this evaluation process, please submit your transcripts and evaluation to The Office of Admissions for further evaluation.

**GPA Requirement.** A GPA of 2.50 from all post-secondary coursework from accredited institutions will be taken into consideration (i.e., community college and college/university). Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in all courses in the ACP at Southwestern.

**The Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires a Pre-Admission Content Exam (PACT) in the following circumstances.**

- If the applicant has a GPA below a 2.5 or
- If the applicant has not completed at least 12 semester credit hours in the subject area in the desired certification area (15 credit hours if seeking certification in math or science above 7th Grade). See the [TEA website](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/pre-admission-content-test) for more details (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/pre-admission-content-test>).

**The prospective student is responsible for the following.**

- Complete an application for admittance to the ACP (contact [online@swau.edu](mailto:online@swau.edu))
- Write a statement of purpose - one page, typed, professional essay describing reasons for desiring a profession in the teaching field.
- Provide contact information for two individuals who can provide letters of recommendation (no relatives). Preferably, these recommendations should come from work experience supervisors or former professors who can speak to your potential as a future educator.

- Provide a criminal background check (fee required). Info available through the department.
- Obtain faculty approval following an admission interview with a faculty committee (in person or via zoom).

### 1. **Cost of Program.**

- Application: \$75
- Consult the Education Department or Online Education office for program costs. Additional department fees may be added to cover clinical supervision. Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks and paying for certification exam review materials.
- Financial aid will be available to qualifying students. All fees related to TExES exam fees and SBEC certification fees are not included as part of the program costs. Students are responsible for the cost of probationary and standard certifications.

### 2. **Length of Program.** 12 - 18 months (to include 14 consecutive weeks of full-day clinical teaching in Texas, options for a year-long internship may be available through a school district)

1. All coursework must be completed within 30 months of beginning the Alternative Certification program or students will be required to re-apply and possibly repeat coursework due to any program changes required by TEA.
2. In order to support student success, ACP students are required to complete Texas teacher certification testing within 12 months of completing all coursework. Students who fail to meet this deadline must complete an approved remediation program prior to testing approval. Remediation costs are the responsibility of the graduate.

### 3. **To maintain Program status students must:**

- Demonstrate professional dispositions necessary for successful teaching
- Meet the technical standards as outlined in the program information
- Actively engage in coursework and communicate regularly with professors
- Show promising development during the clinical teaching/internship period
- Demonstrate behaviors that are ethically and morally responsible and in accordance with the Texas Educator's Code of Ethics (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/investigations/educators-code-of-ethics>)

See the current *Bulletin* under the Education section for additional information regarding clinical teaching and recommendation to SBEC for certification.

## Options for Texas Teacher Certification

### **Elementary Certification - Early Childhood - 6th grade**

- [Core Subjects EC-6](#)

### **Secondary Certification Areas**

- [English Language Arts and Reading](#)
- [Life Science](#) (may require in-person lab science courses)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Social Studies Composite](#)

### **All Level Areas**

- [Music Education](#)
- [Physical Education](#)

All classes are online.

# **Education – Alternative Certification Program Degrees and Certificates**

# Elementary and Secondary Certifications

The courses listed below are required to complete the Alternative Certification Program. Consult with your advisor when planning your schedule. Some courses require field-based experience. Clinical Teaching must be completed in-person in the State of Texas.

## 1. Elementary Education

Early Childhood - Grade 6

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>credits</b>
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School	2-3
CERT 414	Science Methods	2-3
CERT 419	Social Studies Methods	3
CERT 424	Language Arts Essential Skills in the Elementary School	2
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 475	Directed Teaching in the Elementary School	4-6

## Secondary Education

Option 1 English Language Art and Reading

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>credits</b>
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
CERT 491	Reading in the Content Areas (For Grades 7-12)	2-3

## Secondary Education

Option 2 Mathematics

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>credits</b>
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 386	Mathematics Methods	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

## Secondary Education

### Option 3 Social Studies

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>credits</b>
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 419	Social Studies Methods	3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

## Secondary Education

### Option 4 Life Science

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>credits</b>
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 414	Science Methods	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
	<b>Total credits:</b>	<b>22</b>

# Texas Teacher Certification, All Level Education - Music or Physical Education

All-level certification prepares music and physical education teachers for teaching kindergarten through 12th grade. Confer with your advisor to plan your program.

## Option 1 Music

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 253	Music in the Schools	3
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

## Option 2 Physical Education

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 244	Physical Education	3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 431	Physical Education Methods (K-12)	3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
<b>Total credits:</b>		<b>22</b>

## Education – Alternative Certification Program Classes

### CERT 244: Physical Education

The course provides the pre-service teacher with an extensive repertoire of teaching techniques in all level (EC – 12) physical education program. Emphasis is placed on health-related fitness, skill development, special events, and game development.

**Credits:** 3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

### CERT 253: Music in the Schools

A course designed to prepare pre-service teachers to direct the music activities of children in all levels (EC – 12). The contents include fundamentals, appreciation, singing and rhythm activities.

**Credits:** 3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 312: Educational Psychology

A study of psychology as it relates to the learning processes and teaching methods. Principles and theories of learning are reviewed and individual differences and psychological concepts examined. Attention is given to exceptional learners. Includes field experience.

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 326: Learners With Exceptionalities

A study of the 13 disability categories outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004. Emphasis on understanding the educational needs of students with disabilities. The study includes characteristics, causes, prevalence, and legislation regarding students with disabilities. Admission, review, and dismissal procedures for students requiring an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or other specialized program(s) are covered. The roles and responsibilities of the classroom teacher are integrated into the study of each specific disability category. (Also taught as PSYC 326)

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 382: Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teachers with the strategies to help ALL children become better readers through systematic, multimethod, multilevel instruction. The focus will be on the essential components of a balanced literacy program to include assessment, lesson planning, strategic reading processes, and program implementation. Includes field experience. This course includes six hours of dyslexia education as required by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). TAC Rule 228.35 (4)

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 386: Mathematics Methods

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher with concepts, methods, and available materials for effective mathematics instruction in the schools. Creative development of materials and lesson plans are emphasized. (This course does not apply to mathematics requirements.) Includes field experience.

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 414: Science Methods

A course designed to prepare pre-service teachers with practical classroom tested activities and ideas that are presented on planning, organizing, managing, and assessing an effective guided discovery science program. Students will have opportunities to develop teaching lessons. (This course does not apply to science requirements.)

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach



## CERT 419: Social Studies Methods

An overview of the social studies program that incorporates proven teaching strategies such as models of teaching, cooperative learning, learning styles, and dimensions of learning. Students will have opportunity to develop thematic lesson plans in an active-learning environment. (This course does not apply to social studies requirements.) Includes field experience.

**Credits:** 3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

## CERT 424: Language Arts Essential Skills in the Elementary School

Designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher to implement a robust language arts program for the elementary classroom. Topics include all aspects of writing instruction including idea development, revision, mechanics, spelling, and publication. A writing workshop format will be used to engage students in developing writing lessons, writing assessment, and writing connections across the curriculum that align with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as SDA Language Arts Standards. Field experience is required for successful completion of this course.

**Credits:** 2

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

## CERT 431: Physical Education Methods (K-12)

The study of methods and techniques of teaching physical education in the elementary and secondary school, including individual as well as group activities; students are required to observe and demonstrate in class.

**Credits:** 3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

## CERT 434: Classroom Assessment

This class prepares prospective teachers to have a better understanding of classroom learning and assessment. Attention will be given to test construction and evaluation of test results.

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

## CERT 436: Classroom Management

The purpose of this course is to help pre-service teachers develop systematic strategies and techniques for organizing and managing classroom activities and students. Research and practitioner-based models for classroom management will be reviewed and explored. Emphasis will be based upon real-world solutions that prepare pre-service teachers to be effective managers of their classrooms so that student learning is maximized.

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 450: Teaching Methods

A study of the teacher's role, teaching techniques, classroom management and evaluation of learning experiences in schools as these affect all students, including those with special needs and minorities. This course also addresses reading in the content area. Includes field experience. Included in this course are content area reading strategies for secondary students and six hours of dyslexia training as required by Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC RULE §228.35 (4).

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 475: Directed Teaching in the Elementary School

This course is a 14-week student teaching experience. Students are required to engage in full-day teaching in an approved elementary classroom. Student teachers work under the guidance of a mentor teacher and a university supervisor. Available to seniors only in their final semester. Placement requires approval of education faculty. Pass/Fail.

**Credits:** 4-6

**Prerequisites:**

Two-thirds of the professional education classes as outlined in the Alternative Certification Program

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 485: Directed Teaching in the Secondary School

This course is a 14-week student teaching experience. Students are required to engage in full-day teaching in an approved classroom (grades 7-12). Student teachers work under the guidance of a mentor teacher and a university supervisor. Available to seniors only in their final semester. Placement requires approval of education faculty. Pass/no pass course.

**Credits:** 4-6

**Prerequisites:**

Two-thirds of the professional education classes as outlined in the Alternative Certification Program

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach

# CERT 491: Reading in the Content Areas (For Grades 7-12)

This course addresses the importance of developing reading and writing skills across all content areas in middle school and high school. The development of critical reading strategies will be emphasized. Teaching methods will address the needs of both struggling and advanced readers. The development of reading comprehension will be emphasized. Additionally, six hours of training related to dyslexia will be included in this course as required by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC Rule 228.35)

**Credits:** 2-3

**Program:** Education – Alternative Certification Program ~ For individuals with a B.S degree in non-education field who desire to teach