

Teacher Licensure Pathway

All prospective educators must meet minimum education requirements by completing a Mississippi State Board of Education approved educator preparation program that includes clinical experience (student teaching or internship) and achieve qualifying scores on the certification assessment(s). Future educators meet these requirements by completing a traditional pathway or non-traditional (alternate route) pathway to licensure. An educator license is also attainable for out-of-state educators and those completing career and technical education requirements.

Traditional Pathway – Earn a bachelor’s degree (or higher) in education

- By completing the traditional pathway to licensure, one must earn at least a bachelor’s degree in teacher education from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher learning. The educator preparation program will have the following characteristics:
 - ✓ Leads to certification
Please ensure the program is considered a licensure-track program as some advanced degree programs are designed for already certified educators and are considered to be a non-certified program.
 - ✓ Offered by a Mississippi college/university
You can find Mississippi State Board of Education educator preparation providers at: <https://www.mdek12.org/OTL/educator-preparation-providers> .
 - ✓ Includes student teaching or field experience
Student teachers will be issued a pre-service teacher license requested by the certification officer of your college/university.
- Certification assessments are required to obtain an educator license in Mississippi. Assessment and/or the equivalent requirement for traditional pathway completers are as follows:
 - ✓ Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) **or** achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination **or** minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education
Note: GPA calculations are performed by an education preparation provider.
 - ✓ Passing scores on the current grade-level specific Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment
 - ✓ Passing score on the current Praxis II content area assessment
 - ✓ Passing score on the Foundations of Reading assessment (required for Elementary Education only)

Certification Assessment Information

Test preparation materials, test registration and additional information regarding current Mississippi State Board of Education approved Praxis assessments are available at:

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/ms/overview>. Test preparation materials, test registration and additional information regarding the Mississippi Foundations of Reading assessment is available at:
<https://www.ms.nesinc.com/>.

Also, the most up-to-date information regarding discontinued tests and/or adjusted score policy is provided in the Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12. If the discontinued assessment in question is not listed in that section or the acceptance date has expired, you must meet requirements in effect on the day that your complete application is received in the Division of Educator Licensure. Current requirements may be access via the following web link:

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/ms/requirements>.

Non-Traditional (Alternate) Pathway – For transitioning professionals with a bachelor’s degree in a non-education area

- By completing the non-traditional pathway to licensure, one must already possess at least a bachelor’s degree in a non-education field from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher learning and achieve qualifying scores on the certification assessment(s). After successful completion of the required certification assessment(s), one must be unconditionally admitted in a Mississippi alternate route program to complete training or coursework followed by a one-year internship. The certification assessments required for non-traditional program completers are the following:
 - ✓ Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) **or** achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination **or** minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education
Note: GPA calculations are performed by an education preparation provider
 - ✓ Passing score on the current Praxis II content area assessment
 - ✓ Passing score on the Foundations of Reading assessment (required for Elementary Education and Special Education only)
- Here is what to consider before enrolling in an alternate route program:
 - ✓ Decide what subject and age level you want to teach. This decision will help you choose which alternate route program will work for you.
 - ✓ Choose an alternate route program. Many candidates choose a program based on these criteria:
 - geographical location of the program
 - subject areas offered
 - cost and time commitment
 - internship requirements
 - grade level
 - your personal academic skills and professional background

- There are currently three Mississippi alternate route programs. The alternate route educator preparation providers and further details regarding subject areas offered, training, location, and contact information are listed below.
 - Master of Arts in Teaching
 - Teach Mississippi Institute
 - American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence

Certification Assessment Information

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Reciprocity – Out-of-State Educators

The department shall grant a standard five-year license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license from another state or country. Reciprocity applicants must possess the following:

- ✓ Valid and standard educator license issued by the certification governing agency from a state outside of Mississippi
- ✓ Valid standard out-of-state license must have Mississippi equivalent endorsements
- ✓ Ability to submit official transcripts (translated and evaluated, if applicable) from all attended colleges/universities

Degrees Earned Outside of the United States and Other Correspondence

The applicant is responsible for having all transcripts representing degrees earned outside of the United States, as well as any other correspondence, translated and evaluated by an evaluation agency prior to submission of a licensure application to the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Please submit a detailed course-by-course foreign credential evaluation report. Information regarding acceptable evaluation agencies may be accessed at www.naces.org (click on “Choose an Agency” to gain access to contact information for those listed as “Current Members”). The official transcript must be submitted electronically to the MDE Division of Educator Licensure directly from the transcript translation organization.