

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this program for real?

A: Yes. It is a State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) approved program that is “No Child Left Behind” compliant. We can be found on the SBEC website at www.sbec.state.tx.us

Q: If accepted into the program, what tests will I need to take I order to get certified?

A: Everyone needs to take and pass their content area TExES exam and the appropriate level PPR exam (EC-4, 4-8, 8-12 or EC-12). Additionally, if you are seeking Bilingual, Spanish or French certification, you must take and pass the TOPT.

Q: When do I take these exams?

A: You may take your content area exam immediately after being accepted into the program. However, you may not take the PPR exam until you are going through your internship and have gone through the PPR review sessions.

Q: If I take and pass my required exams as a candidate, that is once I have been accepted, can't I be certified?

A: First of all, you should not be taking the PPR exam until you have a teaching job and have gone through the PPR review sessions. On your application, you agreed to abide by the program requirements. The testing protocol is one of the most important requirements of the program. Additionally, the program will not recommend an individual unless they have met the State's testing requirements and all program requirements i.e., training sessions, review sessions, fees, evaluations, etc...

Q: Am I assigned a mentor and supervisor?

A: Definitely! As an intern, your principal is asked to provide you with a mentor who is paid \$200 per semester to support you through your certification program. Your mentor will be paid \$200 at the end of each semester. A program supervisor is appointed to you as well.

Q: How many sessions can I miss?

A: You may not miss any sessions. However, if a situation such as illness occurs, arrangements may be made to make-up the missed session during an upcoming training academy. This is why the program is said to be very flexible.

Q: Why are you so inexpensive in comparison to other programs?

A: Everything you need, with the exception of testing fees and certificate fees, to become certified is paid with the \$4000 fee. Furthermore, an initial investment of \$400 is payable up front with the remaining \$3600 payable in ten monthly installments, and only after you obtain a teaching job. The program does not require “college-type” courses, books, fees for computer usage, parking, records, etc. This is but a few ways costs are kept to a minimum.

Q: Why should I sign up for this program instead of another?

A: The TEXAS ACP is cost effective, flexible, and there are no deadlines for acceptance into the program. Additionally, there are no deadlines in order to start working and thus be paid as a teacher. We have had individuals accepted and hired by school districts every single month of the year.

Q: Who teaches your sessions?

A: Local consultants and presenters as well as instructors from across the State. These individuals are experts in their respective fields who have a plethora of skills and experiences and have provided consultant services for such entities as Education Service Centers, Colleges and Universities, Charter Schools, Public Schools, and the private sector. Most, if not all, are former school administrators, superintendents, university professors, certification officers, ACP instructors, instructional specialists, etc.

Q: I have tried calling the office but have been unable to contact anyone. Am I doing something wrong?

A: We are constantly bombarded with calls. As a matter of fact, when the program first came to the area, approximately 600 phone calls were received within the first four days of operation. We apologize for the inconvenience, but program information such as the application and brochure may be found on the web. You may also want to come by the Austin or El Paso Offices.

Q: When do you conduct the Pre-Service Training Academy (PSTA)?

A: The PSTA is usually held three times a year. They are tentatively scheduled for February, May, and October. A fourth academy may be scheduled if necessary usually in June or July.

Q: Do you have PPR review sessions before every State testing date?

A: The State has decided to have six testing dates instead of the four they are historically had. The PPR review sessions are 18 hours long and encompass two weekends. It is not possible, nor is it cost effective to have review sessions for the PPR before every test date. Instead, PPR reviews are spread out throughout the year usually scheduled in

October, January, and May. In addition, review sessions for candidates and interns seeking Bilingual Generalist, Special Education and Generalist certification will be scheduled three times a year as well.

Q: When do you have content area reviews for math, science, history, etc?

A: We generally do not. The content area tests are for individuals beginning a teaching career. Someone with a degree in the area they are seeking certification in, such as math for example, from an accredited university, should be able to pass an entry level content area test. However, the Pre-Test Seminar that is provided two to three times a year is designed to go over how the TExES is constructed, study skills, test taking skills, and is when a representative test is provided for you to take so you can get the “feel” of the exam and identify strengths and weaknesses as the answers are provided for you. The program is aware of individuals that will provide content area sessions if necessary. The program is currently weighing how to incorporate such a resource. Remember that we are and want to remain an affordable option.