

*This document applies to applications for initial Florida certification received by the
Bureau of Educators Certification **ON OR AFTER JULY 27, 2006.***

Education Coursework Requirements for Florida Professional Certification

If your Statement of Status of Eligibility (SOE) states that you must complete education courses to meet the requirements for issuance of a professional certificate, use the following explanation to assist you in enrolling in appropriate college/university courses. The requirement for most subject areas is a total of 15 semester hours. If your SOE states a lower number, that means you have already completed coursework to satisfy a portion of the professional preparation requirement.

Note: If you are teaching a subject for which you do not hold certification, then you are considered "out-of-field" and must complete 6 hours of college coursework every year that you are out-of-field. If your SOE states that you must complete education courses for your professional certificate, you may use education coursework to meet the 6-hour out-of-field requirement.

Fifteen (15) semester hours with credit in the following professional education areas:

(Note: 15 hour total applies to all subjects; however, more than 15 hours may be needed to complete all of the specific course requirements.)

1. Classroom management including safe learning environments.

Sample course titles:

<i>Classroom Management</i>	<i>Classroom Management/Guidance</i>
<i>Managing the Classroom</i>	<i>Classroom Management and Teaching</i>

Creating a "safe learning environment" is an integral component of classroom management and therefore does not have to be specifically identified.

Courses in this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher and should have an education prefix.

2. Human development and learning.

Sample course titles:

<i>Learning</i>	<i>Developmental Psychology</i>	<i>Cognition</i>
<i>Theories of Learning</i>	<i>Human Growth & Development</i>	<i>Psychological Foundations of Educ.</i>
<i>Psychology of Learning</i>	<i>Adolescent Psychology</i>	<i>Educational Psychology</i>
<i>Classroom Learning Principles</i>	<i>Child Development</i>	<i>Lifespan Development</i>

Courses may have education, psychology or other prefixes. General or abnormal psychology, psychology of exceptional children, behavior, group behavior, personality dynamics or mental hygiene may not be used.

Appropriate courses taken at a community or junior college are acceptable in this area.

3. Educational assessment to include the content measured by state achievement tests and the interpretation and utilization of data to improve student achievement.

Sample course titles:

<i>Measurement & Evaluation in the Classroom</i>	<i>Measurement & Evaluation in Education</i>
<i>Measurement, Evaluation & Assessment in Education</i>	

Courses in this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher and should have an education prefix.

4. Effective instructional strategies including the needs of diverse learners.

Sample course titles:

<i>Professional Teaching Practices</i>	<i>Instructional Strategies</i>	<i>Field Experiences</i>
<i>Teaching Practicum</i>	<i>Effective Teaching in the Secondary School</i>	
<i>Integrated Teaching in Elem. Ed.</i>	<i>Middle Grades Instructional Strategies</i>	

Unacceptable courses:

<i>Curriculum Development</i>	<i>Elementary and Secondary Curriculum</i>
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Courses in this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher and should have an education prefix.

5. Curriculum and special methods of teaching the subject.

This requirement applies to:

- All middle grades (5-9) subjects
- All secondary (6-12) subjects
- The following K-12 subjects: art, music, dance, computer science, health, foreign languages, and humanities

This requirement does **not** apply to:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Educational Leadership | Physical Education | Visually Impaired |
| • Educational Media Specialist | Adm. of Adult Educ. | Hearing Impaired |
| • Elementary Education | School Psychologist | Reading |
| • Exceptional Student Education | Guidance & Counseling | ESOL |

Sample course titles appropriate for specific subjects:

Teaching Mathematics in the Middle School (Mdl Grds Math, Math 6-12, Mdl Grds Integrated Curric)
Teaching Science in the Secondary School (Mdl Grds Gen Sci, 6-12 Separate Sciences, Mdl Grds Integ Curric)
Secondary Social Science Curriculum & Methods (Mdl Grds Soc Sci, Soc Sci 6-12, Mdl Grds Integrated Curric)
Teaching K-12 Computer Science (Computer Science)
Secondary Mathematics Teaching Practicum (Mdl Grds Math, Math 6-12, Mdl Grds Integrated Curric)

Courses in this area must be specific to the subject and at the appropriate grade level. Courses on special methods of teaching a subject typically include curriculum. Curriculum courses in the subject are not acceptable unless the course also includes teaching methods.

Courses in this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher.

6. Foundations of research-based practices in teaching reading.

This requirement applies to:

- All middle grades (5-9) subjects
- All secondary (6-12) subjects

Sample courses:

Florida Online Reading Professional Development (FORPD) (if taken for college academic credit)
Foundations of Developmental Reading
Teaching Reading in Middle and High School
Methods of Teaching Reading in the Elementary School
Developmental Reading
RED 5047 and RED 5147 at Florida public universities

Courses in this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher.

7. Elective credit.

All education courses completed at an acceptable junior/community or senior (four-year) institution of higher learning which are not used to satisfy a specific requirement in professional preparation may be recorded as elective credit.

Sample course titles and categories:

<i>Vocational Education</i>	<i>Higher Education</i>	<i>Adult Education</i>
<i>Exceptional Child Education</i>	<i>Elementary Education</i>	<i>Counseling in the Elem. School</i>
<i>ESOL Methods</i>	<i>Teacher Effectiveness Training</i>	<i>Seminar in Education</i>
<i>Introduction to Education</i>	<i>Educational Leadership</i>	<i>Introduction to Guidance</i>
<i>Any course with an education prefix</i>		

Miscellaneous Information

- **College Teaching Experience:** Teaching a college course is considered the same as taking the same course for credit and therefore may possibly be used to meet professional preparation requirements. Acceptable verification shall be a letter on university letterhead from the registrar listing (1) course title, (2) course prefix and number, (3) number of semester hours earned by students in the course. College teaching experience is not acceptable for the practical experience in teaching requirement.
- **Coursework waiver option: Teaching Experience in an Elementary or Secondary School.** Teaching experience earned in an elementary or secondary school may be applied in lieu of college credit in professional preparation. You may waive up to three hours of coursework with one year of teaching experience. Note, however, that in order to waive special methods, the teaching experience must be in the subject. For example, to waive 2 semester hours of teaching mathematics, you would need at least one year of experience in teaching mathematics. Please check with your Personnel Specialist on the rules that govern use of teaching experience in lieu of course credit.
- To **verify** whether or not a **course** meets a professional preparation requirement, you may contact the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Educator Certification at 1-800-445-6739. Be prepared to state the name of the college/university, the course prefix, the course number, and the course title.