Common Paths to Teacher Certification

The path to teacher certification and licensure can be rather confusing and daunting. To assist you in learning more about the common paths toward teacher certification, please review the various paths below.

STANDARD CERTIFICATION

Standard certification requirements are detailed below. Ashford University does NOT offer standard certification.

Bachelor's Degree
- Elementary School Teachers: Major in education
- Secondary School (grades 6-12): Major in education or in desired subject specialty
- Some states require a Master's Degree

Testing
- State exams or PRAXIS
- These tests demonstrate basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, and if needed, a proficiency in subject-specific knowledge and teaching aptitude.

Certification
- Complete an Accredited Teacher Education Program including student teaching/practicum (if required)
- *NOTE: This activity may be embedded in your program of study. Ashford University programs do not embed any Accredited Teacher Education Program student teaching/practicums.*

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION

Alternative routes to certification programs may be available for those who haven't completed a traditional college degree in education. School districts are usually interested in alternative candidates because they help to:

- Decrease teacher shortages in crucial subject areas;
- Provide schools with a bank of professionals who bring a wealth of knowledge from other careers that can be applied to the educative process for the students they serve.

Candidates for alternative certification generally must follow a three step process:
The University's programs and services are designed to prepare students and graduates to pursue employment in their field of study or related field; however, the University does not guarantee that students or graduates will be placed in any particular position or employment. Any statistics referenced on the website and attributed to a source other than Ashford University have not been independently verified by Ashford University. Career Services abides by the principles of professional conduct set forth by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).

Step 1
- Obtain Bachelor's degree
- Pass the Teacher Licensure Assessments required by the particular state.

Step 2
- In order to secure employment as a temporary teacher, a temporary teaching permit must be obtained.
- While teaching in the classroom, these programs often include mentoring and additional course work within a specific time period.

Step 3:
- Candidate must apply for initial certification from the state's Department of Education.