

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING PANHANDLE ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION FOR EDUCATORS

The MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING/PANHANDLE ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION FOR EDUCATORS (MAT/PACE) program is a university-based teacher certification program for bachelor-degreed individuals who want to make a career transition into the teaching profession. The first half of the program, PACE, is designed to lead into Texas educator certification which begins with testing, early field-based experiences, and online graduate course work. An eligible candidate may be employed as a Texas teacher or may complete clinical teaching under the supervision of an experienced teacher. The second portion of the program may culminate into an advanced degree with continuation of online graduate course work and a graduate comprehensive exam.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum requirements apply to all applicants:

- ❑ A bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution of higher learning, -AND-
- ❑ An overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale on all college and/or university course work attempted or a 2.75 GPA on the final 60 hours, -AND-
- ❑ A passing score report on Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) for the target certificate -OR-
 - a minimum of 2 score reports of 230 or higher (on each section of Core exam) and course work specific to the content/grade level of the target certificate (see p. 3) with a 2.75 GPA

Applicants with degrees from universities other than WTAMU must submit sealed, certified transcripts from every college and/or university attended. Applicants with degrees from universities outside the U.S. should contact the program prior to application. These applicants must also submit a TOEFL score report with a score of 26 on the speaking portion.

Applicants currently enrolled in a bachelor's program may be granted contingent admission during the final semester of undergraduate enrollment provided all of the above criteria are met.

APPLICATION/ADMISSION PROCESS

Step 1—PACT testing: Prior to program application, determine the content/grade level of the target certificate and take the applicable Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) through the [Pre-Admission Content Testing](#) (PACT) system. If a minimum of 2 score reports is 230 or higher on content exam(s) [230 for each section of the Core exam] **AND** content course work meets the minimum requirements outlined on page 3, a passing score of 240 is not required for admission.

Step 2—Application: Submit a copy of the TExES score report(s) with the application, fee, and other required documents listed on page 9. After your application has been evaluated, you will be notified of program approval status by email within 30 days.

Step 3—Program admission: If you are approved for the program, you will be given an offer of admission and certification plan, and you must confirm acceptance of the offer within ten days of receiving the plan. Upon confirmation, you will receive additional information regarding the graduate school application, field-based experiences, and registration. If you are not approved, you may contact the PACE office to discuss your options.

TESTING/TRAINING/TEACHING

Every initial teacher certification candidate in Texas must complete a preparation program which includes the “Three T’s” – Testing, Training, and Teaching.

Testing

Texas educators must pass at least two exams for full certification—a content exam and the Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam. Certain programs may require more than two tests. Applicants must submit official TExES content exam score reports with the program application. Passing the exam is an important factor in employment eligibility as a teacher, and may be used in determining eligibility for admission. The PPR exam will be taken after program admission upon completion of appropriate course work.

It is important to prepare for the exam because each candidate is limited to one initial attempt and four retakes. A list of [Test Preparation Resources](#) is available in the testing folder under *LINKS*.

Training

Training includes early field-based experiences and professional development (PD) course work in accordance with the approved certification plan.

Early Field-based Experiences Requirements (prior to clinical teaching or internship)

Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 40 clock hours of field-based experiences prior to a supervised teaching experience with WTAMU’s EPP. This requirement may be met through face-to-face field experiences or a combination of face-to-face (at least 25 hrs) and video (up to 15 hrs). **Substitute teaching may not be used for field experience**; however, other public school experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Director of WT’s EPP. The [Field-Based Experiences Packet](#) includes specific procedures for placement procedures by the EPP Director and is available from the *LINKS* folder on the PACE website, www.wtamu.edu/PACE.

Professional Development Course Work

Professional development (PD) course work required of all candidates is offered online and is completed during the summer, fall, and spring semesters following admission (see page 4). Required course work will be listed on a candidate’s certification plan; however, it is the candidate’s responsibility to contact PACE staff each semester for advising and registration.

Teaching

Each candidate must complete a supervised teaching experience through one of two options:

1. **Internship:** an eligible candidate is hired as a paid teacher of record in a TEA-accredited public school or a TEA-recognized private school. The candidate will complete WT forms to be granted a 1-year intern certificate and will teach fulltime for two semesters at the grade level and content area of the target certificate. A candidate may request eligibility and begin applying for teaching positions after passing the content exam, completing early field-based experiences, and completing 12 SCH, including EDPD 6332 and EDPD 6331. Candidates must notify WT when hired to arrange supervision and to complete internship paperwork.
2. **Clinical Teaching:** an eligible candidate completes a 14 week unpaid experience (formerly known as student teaching) in the classroom and under the supervision of a certified teacher. A candidate must have completed early field-based experiences, passed all required exams, and completed all PD course work prior to clinical teaching. Candidates must submit the clinical teaching application to request formal placement to be arranged by WT with approved ISD partnerships. CT applications are on the PACE website under *LINKS*.

REQUIRED CONTENT COURSE WORK

An applicant who has not passed the content exam for the target certificate may be approved to begin professional development course work if the 2 score report(s) display a minimum score of 230 or higher and the transcript verifies required semester credit hours (SCH) of content course work with at least a 2.75 GPA.

Elementary (Early Childhood – Grade 6)	
EC-6 Core Subjects	24 SCH in a combination of English, mathematics, science, and social studies with at least 3 SCH in each subject area
Middle School (Grades 4-8)	
4-8 Core Subjects	24 SCH in a combination of English, mathematics, science, and social studies with <u>at least 6 SCH</u> in each subject area
4-8 English Language Arts & Reading	12 SCH of English and reading
4-8 Mathematics	15 SCH of mathematics
4-8 Science	15 SCH of science (life/physical/earth)
4-8 Social Studies	12 SCH of social studies (history/geography/political science/economics)
4-8 ELAR/Social Studies	12 SCH of English <i>and</i> 12 SCH of social studies
4-8 Mathematics/Science	15 SCH of mathematics <i>and</i> 15 SCH of science
Secondary (Grades 6-12 or 7-12) and All-level (Grades EC-12)	
7-12 Single-Subject Areas	12 SCH in English, history, journalism, or speech or 15 SCH in chemistry, life science, or mathematics
6-12 Agri. Food and Natural Resources	12 SCH in a combination of agriculture courses
6-12 Business and Finance	12 SCH in a combination of business courses
6-12 Physical Science	15 SCH of chemistry <i>and</i> 15 SCH of physics
7-12 Physics/Mathematics	15 SCH of mathematics <i>and</i> 15 SCH of physics
7-12 Science	24 SCH in one area and at least 3 SCH each in the other areas (biology, chemistry, physics, and geology)
7-12 Social Studies	24 SCH in one area, history or political science, and at least 3 SCH each in the other areas (history, political science, economics, geography, psychology or sociology)
EC-12 Technology Applications	12 SCH in technology-related course work
EC-12 Single-Subject Areas	12 SCH in art; ASL; health; LOTE-French, German, Latin, or Spanish; music; physical education; or theatre
EC-12 Special Education	24 SCH in a combination of English, mathematics, science, and social studies with at least 3 SCH in each area

Please note:

- Starting Sept 1, 2017, all ACP candidates must have appropriate the TExES content exam passed, 40 hrs of early field experience, and 12 SCH of PD course work, including EDPD 6332 and EDPD 6331, for internship.
- A special education candidate is not eligible to teach without passing the special education exam and another content exam (EC-6 or 4-8 Core Subjects or the applicable 7-12 exam if a resource teacher).

Passing the content exam is of utmost importance; however, state policy limits a candidate to five test attempts: one initial and four retakes. Please access and use the [Test Preparation Resources](#) under **LINKS on the PACE website prior to taking the exam.**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE WORK

Professional development course work required of all candidates is offered online and is completed during the summer, fall, and spring semesters following approval. Course rotation by semester (FA-fall, SP-spring, or SU-summer) is provided for planning purposes, but is subject to change.

EC-6 or 4-8 Core Subjects/4-8 Content Areas	
EDPD 6332: Theories and Practice in Classroom Management	SP, SU2
EDRD 6331: Reading Skills Instruction	FA, SU1
EDEL 6334: Integrated Language Arts/Social Studies Methods	FA, SU2
EDEL 6335: Integrated Mathematics/Science Methods	FA, SU1
EDPD 6331: Foundations and Psychological Principles of Education	FA, SP, SU2
EDEC 6384: Curriculum and the Young Child (EC-6 candidates) or EDRD 5386 or 6332: Reading in Content Areas (4-8 candidates)	FA, SP SP, SU1
Additional course work to add bilingual or ESL certification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDPD 6378: Language Development, and • EDPD 6363: Bilingual Teaching Methods <u>or</u> EDPD 6388: ESL Teaching Methods 	FA SP
6-12, 7-12, and EC-12 Content Areas	
EDPD 6332: Theories and Practice in Classroom Management	SP, SU2
EDRD 5386 or 6332: Reading in Content Areas	SP, SU1
EDSE 6333: Secondary Teaching Methods	SU1
EPSY 6350: Exceptional Children in the Mainstream of Society	FA, SU2
EDPD 6331: Foundations and Psychological Principles of Education	FA, SP, SU2
EDPD 6310: Instructional Strategies (This course replaces EDT 6300)	FA, SP
EC-12 Special Education	
EPSY 6350: Exceptional Children in the Mainstream of Society	FA, SU2
EDSP 6352: Instructional Programming for Students with Intellectual Disabilities	SU2
EDSP 6354: Theories of Learning Disabilities and Emotional/Behavioral Disorders	FA
EDSP 6356: Advanced Remediation Techniques	SP
EDSP 6359: Management of Classroom Behaviors-Exceptional Children (<i>recommended</i>)	SU1
EDPD 6331: Foundations and Psychological Principles of Education	FA, SP, SU2
EDRD 5386, 6331, or 6332: Elementary or Content-Area Reading	FA, SP, SU1
Internship/Clinical Teaching Options (all areas)	
EDPD 6098E: Teaching Internship (0 SCH, Fall & Spring) [Classes are thru Education on Demand, EoD; not Graduate School]	FA, SP
EDPD 6398/6399: Graduate Clinical Teaching (6 SCH in 1 semester, fall/spring)	FA, SP
Additional Course Work to complete the Master of Arts in Teaching Degree [portion 2 of program]	
<i>Upon passing the content exam and</i> completion of 12 SCH of professional development course work, the candidate may request a MAT Plan of Study which will outline additional requirements for the MAT degree.	

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Individuals in the PACE program are concurrently in the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program. The MAT program will allow PACE candidates to complete requirements for initial teacher certification, expand their knowledge and skills to support their effectiveness as teachers, and meet state certificate renewal requirements in their respective fields.

NOTE: The MAT degree will **not** lead to a professional certificate (counselor, diagnostician, or principal); however, certain MAT courses may serve as leveling courses for other graduate programs. If a professional certification is the goal, contact PACE for referral to the appropriate adviser for that program.

Admission Requirements

- Apply to WT's PACE program (separate from and prior to graduate school application); see wtamu.edu/PACE.
- Upon program approval, apply to graduate school using the Grad U.S. Application, wtamu.edu/admissions/apply_graduate.aspx, for the "Education/Teaching Masters program" and submit the fee.

MAT Course Work (36-42 hrs)

A minimum total of 36 semester credit hours (SCH) of graded course work—at least 24 hours at the 6000-level—is required. Course work includes the following:

- 18 SCH of Professional Development course work through PACE
 - (candidates may not continue past PD until content exam is passed)
- 9 SCH from the graduate core in Education
 - EDPD 6303, and
 - 3 SCH from EDPD 6304 or EDPD 6385 or COUN 6330, and
 - 3 SCH from EDLD 6311 or EDPD 6305 or EDPD 6308 or EDPD 6329
- 9 SCH in the applicant's teaching field as approved by the graduate adviser in the Department of Education
- *Possible Additional 6 SCH* - candidates completing clinical teaching will be enrolled into 6 SCH (EDPD 6398/6399) of pass/fail or 0 SCH for candidates who complete internship

Degree Completion/Graduation Requirements

A candidate must meet these requirements to graduate with the MAT degree:

- Hold a Standard Texas Educator Certificate (complete all testing, training, and teaching requirements), and
- Completion of all course work as outlined on the official MAT Plan of Study, and
- Passing a written comprehensive exam. Note: The candidate is not eligible to sit for the comprehensive exam until standard certification is complete.

Other Considerations

- The candidate may request a MAT Plan of Study from the PACE Adviser upon completion of 12 SCH of Graduate PACE course work **and passing the content test(s) for the target certificate**.
- The candidate must maintain a 3.0 GPA (with no grade below a C) on all MAT course work, and the program must be completed within six (6) years of taking the first graduate course that applies to the MAT degree.

PACE PROGRAM COST

These are approximate costs associated with program application:

- \$131.00 for the TExES content exam
- \$50.00 non-refundable PACE program application fee

These are approximate costs associated with program participation:

- \$40.00 non-refundable graduate school application fee
- \$131.00/certification exam (at least 2 are required of every candidate, content and PPR)*
- Approximately \$1100.00 /course for in-state tuition and fees*
- Textbooks and supplies (varied by course – estimate not provided)

These are approximate costs associated with the supervised teaching experience:

- Option 1 Paid Internship [eligible candidate being hired on by ISD]
 - \$78.00 fee for an intern certificate*
 - \$37.75 for the criminal background check fee*
 - \$10.00 fee for the digital fingerprinting service*
 - \$2700.00 internship supervision fee (paid through school district payroll deduction, \$300.00/month for nine months)
- Option 2 Clinical Teaching [previously known as student teaching]
 - Approximately \$2100.00 in tuition for the 6 SCH Clinical Teaching courses, and
 - \$1200.00 clinical teaching supervision fee [program fee – separate from tuition]

Upon completion of all certification requirements, these are additional costs:

- \$78.00 fee for the Texas Standard Teaching Certificate*
- Tuition/fees for additional course work to complete the MAT degree (optional)

**Exam fees, certificate fees, and fingerprinting fees are set by the Texas Education Agency and are subject to change. Tuition and fees are established by the Texas legislature and are subject to change; estimates for Texas and border county residents are provided; residency status is determined by the Admission's Office.*

<p>Physical Location: Office of Teacher Preparation and Advising West Texas A&M University 2501 4th Avenue Old Main, Room 413 & 415</p>	<p>www.wtamu.edu/PACE Phone: (806) 651-2668 Fax: (806) 651-3626</p>	<p>Mailing Address: WTAMU-PACE c/o ANGELA DALLAS WT Box 60208 Canyon, TX 79016-0001</p>
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West Texas A&M University is a Member of the Texas A&M University System. WTAMU serves people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. WTAMU is an affirmative action/equal employment institution.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please **print and sign** the completed application and mail or deliver the application, fee, and required documents to the address below.

All applicants must submit these items:

- Printed and signed application, including attached interview questions (see question #10)
- \$50 PACE application fee
- Passing TExES score report or 2 minimum score reports of 230
- Sealed, certified transcripts (for WT graduates, include only transcripts from institutions attended after graduation from WT)
- Two passport photos (do not submit a copy of your passport; submit two current passport photos, which are available for a nominal cost at Walgreen's, Wal-Mart, or the U.S. Post Office)
- Resume

Current college seniors must also submit this documentation:

- A graduation letter confirming they are in their final semester of undergraduate enrollment.

Incomplete applications will be placed in a "hold" file until all required items are submitted; after 30 days, incomplete applications will be destroyed.

Please allow 30 days for evaluation of your application and creation of a certification plan. The plan with "next step" instructions will be sent to the email provided on your application. **You must return the confirmation of participation page within ten (10) working days; otherwise, we will consider that you decline participation.**

Physical Location:

Office of Teacher Preparation and Advising
West Texas A&M University
2501 4th Avenue
Old Main, Room 413 & 415

Mailing Address:

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With few exceptions, state law gives you the right to request, receive, review, and correct information about yourself collected by this form. West Texas A&M University is a Member of the Texas A&M University System. WTAMU serves people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. WTAMU is an affirmative action/equal employment institution.

Interview Questions for PACE Program Applicants

1. Is there anything about you that you would like for us to know as an applicant to the PACE program?
2. Why do you want to be a teacher?
3. Please describe your work experience.
4. Which of those work experiences do you believe most prepared you for teaching?
5. What experience do you have working with children?
6. What experience do you have in working with English language learners, students with disabilities, and socio-economically disadvantaged children?
7. What personal attributes do you possess that you believe will help you be an effective classroom teacher?
8. What study skills, reflective practices and self-improvement strategies do you utilize to improve both as a person and as a professional?
9. What do you believe will be most important for you in managing an internship and online coursework?
10. What would you say is your greatest strength? Weakness? Accomplishment?