

Education – Alternative Certification

Faculty/Staff

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Mission

The Southwestern Adventist University Education Department is committed to inspiring knowledge, faith, and service through Christ-centered education. Our mission is to prepare effective educators who are equipped for teaching in faith-based and/or public schools.

Education Certification Program Information

Alternative Certification Program

This program is designed for individuals who are in possession of an undergraduate degree and their degree is not in the field of education, but they want to enter the teaching profession. It is our goal to prepare individuals for State Certification in the State of Texas by means of online and field-based delivery systems.

The State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) establishes the teacher certification standards and grants the certification once students have passed the necessary certification tests as stipulated by said body. This Alternative Certification Program (ACP) prepares and recommends students for certification when they have completed all requirements as stipulated by the Teacher Education Department at Southwestern Adventist University.

Admission Requirements

There are certain general admission requirements for all applicants and other requirements that are specific to your level and area of certification. General admission requirements for all applicants are as follows:

1. **Bachelor's degree from an accredited university.** Note: Applicants who are currently completing degree requirements will not be admitted to (ACP) until degree is confirmed. All applicants with degrees outside of the United States must have these degrees evaluated from an accredited evaluation service and admission to the alternative certification program will be determined by the results of the evaluation. You can obtain an approved list of accredited evaluators from our office or the university registrar (**Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc., P O Box 514070, Milwaukee, WI. 53203-3470. Tel: 414-289-3400**). If you have already completed this evaluation process, please submit your transcripts and evaluation to The Office of Admissions for further evaluation.
2. **GPA Requirement.** GPA of 2.50 from all post-secondary coursework from accredited institutions will be taken into consideration (i.e., community college and college/university) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in all courses in the ACP at Southwestern.
3. A Pre-Admission Content Exam (PACT) will be required in the following circumstances.

- If the applicant has a GPA below a 2.5 or
 - If the applicant has not completed at least 12 semester credit hours in the subject area of the certificate the applicant is seeking (15 hours if seeking certification in math or science above 7th Grade). See the [TEA website](https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/pre-admission-content-test) for more details (<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification/educator-testing/pre-admission-content-test>).
4. **Prospective student is responsible for the following.** Completing application for admittance to the ACP (download application form from department website: acp.swau.edu)
- A statement of purpose - one page, typed essay describing reasons for desiring a profession in the teaching field
 - Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than relatives. Preferably, these recommendations should come from work experience supervisors or former professors
 - Before acceptance to the program all students must submit to and pay for a criminal background check.
5. **Cost of Program.**
- Application: \$75
 - A package price of \$5,000.00 will be charged for this program. A portion of this fee is designated as a training fee (\$200.00 for exam preparation and \$400.00 for the internship) Students will be responsible for purchasing their textbooks.
 - Financial aid will be available to qualifying students. All fees related to TExES exam fees and SBEC certification fees are not included as part of the program costs – students pay for their probationary and standard certificates
6. **Length of Program.** 12 - 18 months
1. All coursework must be completed within 30 months of beginning the Alternative Certification program or students will be required to re-apply and possibly repeat course work according to current changes required by the Department or TEA.
 2. In order to support student success, ACP students are required to complete TEA state testing within 12 months of completing all coursework. Students who fail to meet this deadline must complete an approved remediation program prior to testing approval. Remediation costs are the responsibility of the graduate.
7. **To maintain Program status students must:**
- Give evidence of satisfactory professional growth
 - Show promising development during internship period
 - Demonstrate behaviors that are ethically and morally responsible

See current *Bulletin* under the Education section for additional information regarding student teaching and recommendation to SBEC for certification.

Course of Study for Certification Areas:

Certification Areas

Early Childhood

- [Core Subjects EC-6](#)

Secondary Areas

- [English Language Arts and Reading](#)
- [Life Science](#)
- [Mathematics](#)

- Social Studies Composite

All Level Areas

- Music Education
- Physical Education

All classes are online.

Education – Alternative Certification Degrees and Certificates

Certification, All Level Education

Option 1 Music

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 253	Music in the Schools	3
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

Option 2 Physical Education

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 244	Physical Education	3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 431	Physical Education Methods (K-12)	3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
Total credits:		22

Elementary and Secondary Certifications

1. Elementary Education

Early Childhood - Grade 6

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School	2-3
CERT 414	Science Methods	2-3
CERT 419	Social Studies Methods	3
CERT 424	Language Arts Essential Skills in the Elementary School	2
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 475	Directed Teaching in the Elementary School	4-6

Secondary Education

Option 1 English Language Art and Reading

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
CERT 491	Reading in the Content Areas (For Grades 7-12)	2-3

Secondary Education

Option 2 Mathematics

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 386	Mathematics Methods	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

Secondary Education

Option 3 Social Studies

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 419	Social Studies Methods	3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6

Secondary Education

Option 4 Life Science

Item #	Title	credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2-3
CERT 326	Learners With Exceptionalities	2-3
CERT 414	Science Methods	2-3
CERT 434	Classroom Assessment	2-3
CERT 436	Classroom Management	2-3
CERT 450	Teaching Methods	2-3
CERT 485	Directed Teaching in the Secondary School	4-6
Total credits:		22

Education – Alternative Certification Classes

CERT 244: Physical Education

The course provides the pre-service teacher with an extensive repertoire of teaching techniques in all level (EC – 12) physical education program. Emphasis is placed on health-related fitness, skill development, special events, and game development.

Credits: 3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 253: Music in the Schools

A course designed to prepare pre-service teachers to direct the music activities of children in all levels (EC – 12). The contents include fundamentals, appreciation, singing and rhythm activities.

Credits: 3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 312: Educational Psychology

A study of psychology as it relates to the learning processes and teaching methods. Principles and theories of learning are reviewed and individual differences and psychological concepts examined. Attention is given to exceptional learners. Includes field experience.

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 326: Learners With Exceptionalities

A study of the 13 disability categories outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004. Emphasis on understanding the educational needs of students with disabilities. The study includes characteristics, causes, prevalence, and legislation regarding students with disabilities. Admission, review, and dismissal procedures for students requiring an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or other specialized program(s) are covered. The roles and responsibilities of the classroom teacher are integrated into the study of each specific disability category. (Also taught as PSYC 326)

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 382: Reading and Language Arts in the Elementary School

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teachers with the strategies to help ALL children become better readers through systematic, multimethod, multilevel instruction. The focus will be on the essential components of a balanced literacy program to include assessment, lesson planning, strategic reading processes, and program implementation. Includes field experience. This course includes six hours of dyslexia education as required by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). TAC Rule 228.35 (4)

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 386: Mathematics Methods

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher with concepts, methods, and available materials for effective mathematics instruction in the schools. Creative development of materials and lesson plans are emphasized. (This course does not apply to mathematics requirements.) Includes field experience.

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 414: Science Methods

A course designed to prepare pre-service teachers with practical classroom tested activities and ideas that are presented on planning, organizing, managing, and assessing an effective guided discovery science program. Students will have opportunities to develop teaching lessons. (This course does not apply to science requirements.)

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 419: Social Studies Methods

An overview of the social studies program that incorporates proven teaching strategies such as models of teaching, cooperative learning, learning styles, and dimensions of learning. Students will have opportunity to develop thematic lesson plans in an active-learning environment. (This course does not apply to social studies requirements.) Includes field experience.

Credits: 3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 424: Language Arts Essential Skills in the Elementary School

Designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher to implement a robust language arts program for the elementary classroom. Topics include all aspects of writing instruction including idea development, revision, mechanics, spelling, and publication.

A writing workshop format will be used to engage students in developing writing lessons, writing assessment, and writing connections across the curriculum that align with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as SDA Language Arts Standards. Field experience is required for successful completion of this course.

Credits: 2

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 431: Physical Education Methods (K-12)

The study of methods and techniques of teaching physical education in the elementary and secondary school, including individual as well as group activities; students are required to observe and demonstrate in class.

Credits: 3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 434: Classroom Assessment

This class prepares prospective teachers to have a better understanding of classroom learning and assessment. Attention will be given to test construction and evaluation of test results.

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 436: Classroom Management

The purpose of this course is to help pre-service teachers develop systematic strategies and techniques for organizing and managing classroom activities and students. Research and practitioner-based models for classroom management will be reviewed and explored. Emphasis will be based upon real-world solutions that prepare pre-service teachers to be effective managers of their classrooms so that student learning is maximized.

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 450: Teaching Methods

A study of the teacher's role, teaching techniques, classroom management and evaluation of learning experiences in schools as these affect all students, including those with special needs and minorities. This course also addresses reading in the content area. Includes field experience. Included in this course are content area reading strategies for secondary students and six hours of dyslexia training as required by Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC RULE §228.35 (4)).

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 475: Directed Teaching in the Elementary School

This course is a 14-week student teaching experience. Students are required to engage in full-day teaching in an approved elementary classroom. Student teachers work under the guidance of a mentor teacher and a university supervisor. Available to seniors only in their final semester. Placement requires approval of education faculty. Pass/Fail.

Credits: 4-6

Prerequisites:

Two-thirds of the professional education classes as outlined in the Alternative Certification Program

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 485: Directed Teaching in the Secondary School

This course is a 14-week student teaching experience. Students are required to engage in full-day teaching in an approved classroom (grades 7-12). Student teachers work under the guidance of a mentor teacher and a university supervisor. Available to seniors only in their final semester. Placement requires approval of education faculty. Pass/no pass course.

Credits: 4-6

Prerequisites:

Two-thirds of the professional education classes as outlined in the Alternative Certification Program

Program: Education – Alternative Certification

CERT 491: Reading in the Content Areas (For Grades 7-12)

This course addresses the importance of developing reading and writing skills across all content areas in middle school and high school. The development of critical reading strategies will be emphasized. Teaching methods will address the needs of both struggling and advanced readers. The development of reading comprehension will be emphasized. Additionally, six hours of training related to dyslexia will be included in this course as required by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC Rule 228.35)

Credits: 2-3

Program: Education – Alternative Certification