

Education Certification

Faculty/Staff

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Mission

The Southwestern Adventist University Education Department is committed to shaping minds, cultivating hearts, and promoting service preparing students for a profession in which they can affect the lives of others in a Christian paradigm.

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 or website: www.ece.org**). 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. **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.
4. **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

5. 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.

6. 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 Certification Degrees and Certificates

Certification, All Level Education

Program:

Education Certification

Type:

Cert

Option 1 Music

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 253	Music in the Schools	3
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	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
	Sub-Total Credits	22

Option 2 Physical Education

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 244	Physical Education	3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	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
	Sub-Total Credits	22

	Total credits:	22
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Elementary and Secondary Certifications

Program:

Education Certification

Type:

Cert

1. Elementary Education

Early Childhood - Grade 6

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	2 - 3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts	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
Sub-Total Credits		22

Secondary Education

Option 1 English Language Art and Reading

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	2 - 3
CERT 382	Reading and Language Arts	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
Sub-Total Credits		22

Secondary Education

Option 2 Mathematics

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	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
Sub-Total Credits		22

Secondary Education

Option 3 Social Studies

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	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
Sub-Total Credits		22

Secondary Education

Option 4 Life Science

Item #	Title	Credits
CERT 312	Educational Psychology	2 - 3
CERT 326	Exceptional Children	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
Sub-Total Credits		22

Total credits:	22
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Education 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 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 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 Certification](#)

CERT 326: Exceptional Children

Provides pre-service teachers with skills to include children of all abilities through appropriate arrangement of the environment. Study will include the characteristics, assessment, admission, review and dismissal processes for special students requiring individualized or specialized programs.

Credits: 2 - 3

Program: [Education Certification](#)

CERT 382: Reading and Language Arts

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher with the strategies to help all children become better readers through systematic, multi-method, multilevel instruction. The focus will be on essential components of a balanced literacy program (Guided Reading, Self-Selected Reading, and Working With Words), steps for implementation and management, and a variety of classroom activities. Includes field experience. Also, included in this course is content reading strategies for secondary students including the 6 hours of Dyslexia training as required by Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC RULE §228.35 (4))

Credits: 2 - 3

Program: [Education 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 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 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 Certification](#)

CERT 424: Language Arts Essential Skills in the Elementary School

A course designed to acquaint the pre-service teacher with the principles that underlie the writing workshop and the major components that make it work.

Credits: 2

Program: [Education 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 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 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 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 the those with special needs and minorities. This course also addresses reading in the content area. Includes field experience. Also, included in this course is content reading strategies for secondary students including the 6 hours of Dyslexia training as required by Texas Administrative Code (TAC). (TAC RULE §228.35 (4)).

Credits: 2 - 3

Program: [Education Certification](#)

CERT 475: Directed Teaching in the Elementary School

This course is open only to pre-service teachers seeking certification in Elementary Education. It requires full-day observations and student teaching in an approved elementary school for fourteen weeks under the direction of supervising teachers. Pass/no pass course.

Credits: 4 - 6

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

Program: [Education Certification](#)

CERT 485: Directed Teaching in the Secondary School

This course is open only to pre-service teachers seeking certification in Secondary Education. It requires full-day observations and student teaching in an approved secondary school for fourteen weeks under the direction of supervising teachers. Pass/no pass course.

Credits: 4 - 6

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

Program: [Education Certification](#)