

EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

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DEGREES OFFERED: SECONDARY TEACHING CERTIFICATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH BA IN MAJOR FIELD, MAT

Students in the teacher education program at Rice show a commitment to teaching, a strong record of scholarship in their subject areas, and promise as thoughtful, engaging teachers. The program emphasizes a sound liberal arts education; extensive knowledge of the subject(s) or area(s) to be taught; professional knowledge, including the relevant historical, philosophical, social, and psychological bases of education; and skills in classroom teaching, which include working with both children and adults. Graduates emerge from the program fully prepared for the teaching profession and knowledgeable about a multitude of teaching styles and methods to meet the needs of the diverse student population in schools today.

Rice offers three teacher education plans: (1) a secondary teaching certificate in combination with the undergraduate degree in the elected subject field(s), (2) a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), and (3) a postbaccalaureate plan for Class III students that involves taking those courses and state examinations needed for certification but that does not confer a degree. All three plans include student teaching in the Rice Summer School for Grades 8–12. While maintaining its academic integrity, the Rice program complies with state of Texas certification requirements. Students seeking additional information about the teacher education program are encouraged to meet with an advisor in the Department of Education Certification.

Texas Teaching Credential—Rice is approved by the state of Texas to offer teacher preparation programs in the following fields: art, English language arts and reading, French, German, health science technology education, history, Latin, life sciences, mathematics, physical education, physical sciences, physics/mathematics, science, social studies, and Spanish.

After satisfactory completion of the Rice program, which includes the state-mandated examinations for teachers, students are recommended for a Texas teaching credential. The Texas Education Agency then awards a Texas Standard Teaching Certificate (Grades 8–12).

Student Teaching—Apprenticeship (Plan A) and Internship (Plan B) programs are available. Unpaid apprenticeships are for undergraduates who

wish to complete the teacher education program in four years and two six-week summer sessions. Candidates enroll for the summer sessions following their junior and senior years. Apprentices create and teach courses under the supervision of experienced mentor teachers and university faculty in the Rice Summer School for Grades 8–12.

Paid internships are undertaken by Master of Arts in Teaching candidates, some Class III students, and undergraduates who begin earning certification in their senior year. Under this plan, students serve one apprenticeship in the Rice Summer School and then are supervised through their first semester of a full-time, paid internship in a neighboring, cooperating school system. Permission for the internship is contingent upon completing a successful apprenticeship.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Admission—Students may apply to the Rice University Department of Education Certification for admission to the teacher education program if they show:

- Attainment of junior standing at Rice (bachelor's degree for MAT and Class III candidates) by the semester of admission to the program
- Grades of C- or better in all semester hours attempted in their teaching field(s) and a grade point average of 2.5 or better, both in courses in their teaching fields and overall
- Evidence of adequate physical vigor to perform as a teacher in a classroom
- Exemption or satisfactory scores on all required preprofessional skills tests

A completed plan of study approved by a department advisor and the major field advisor is required before admission to the program is complete.

Completion of Program—To complete the program, students must:

- Be exempted from or pass the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) exam prior to enrolling in any education courses
- Complete the courses specified by the major field advisor(s). Lists of courses for each subject are available in the Education Certification Office
- Complete 18 hours in professional education courses as follows:
Either EDUC 301/501 *Philosophical, Historical, and Social Foundations of Education* or EDUC 330/530 *The American High School*;
EDUC 305/505 *Educational Psychology*;
EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*;
three hours in the appropriate seminar(s) in teaching methods;
and six hours in student teaching (see following)
- Satisfy a state requirement for computer literacy by completing three credits in computer use. EDUC 345/545 *Computers in Education* is recommended
- Complete all university and program requirements specified for undergraduates, MAT candidates, or nondegree (Class III) candidates
- Make grades of C- or better in all teaching field courses and education courses (B- or better for MAT and Class III students)
- Pass appropriate TExES, TOPT, ExCET, and/or language proficiency exams

Apprenticeship Plan (Plan A)

(For students beginning certification in their junior year and for some Class III students)

Junior Year

EDUC 301 *Philosophical, Historical, and Social Foundations of Education* or EDUC 330 *The American High School*

EDUC 305 *Educational Psychology*

EDUC 410–416 *Relevant seminar(s) in teaching methods*

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*

Senior Year

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

After Graduation

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*

Internship Plan (Plan B)

(For students beginning certification in their senior year, some Class III students, and MAT students)

Before Graduation

EDUC 301/501 *Philosophical, Historical, and Social Foundations of Education* or EDUC 330/530 *The American High School*;

EDUC 305/505 *Educational Psychology*;

EDUC 410–416 *Relevant seminar(s) in teaching methods*; and

EDUC 420 *Curriculum Development*

After Academic Year

EDUC 440 *Supervised Teaching: Summer School*; and

EDUC 540 *Internship* (paid internship in the fall in a local, accredited secondary school)

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAT

Admission—Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, scholarly ability, and an interest in teaching, and they must have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Education faculty review each application. A limited number of tuition waivers is available. See Admission to Graduate Study (Graduate Students section, pages 2–3). Admitted students must pass or be exempted from the state's Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) exam *prior* to enrolling in any education courses.

Degree Requirements—For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (Graduate Students section, pages 3–4). The MAT is a nonthesis degree program for students who want to qualify for secondary school teaching following a liberal arts education. Most candidates entering the program have had no professional education courses. By completing the program, candidates fulfill all requirements for a Texas Standard Teaching Certificate for grades 8–12. To earn the MAT degree, students must complete, with grades of B- or higher, at least 33 semester hours (the need to remove deficiencies may require additional courses for certification) at the graduate level. Fifteen of the graduate credits must be at the 500 level. Requirements are as follows:

- Specified courses in secondary school educational theory, teaching strategies, educational practice, and evaluation
- Graduate or upper-level courses in the relevant teaching field(s) taken at Rice
- Supervised full-time teaching for one summer in the Rice Summer School for Grades 8–12, including design and implementation of courses, teaching, and evaluation
- Approval to begin an internship, based on a successful summer school teaching experience

- Supervised teaching internship for one semester in a cooperating accredited secondary school, including the accompanying seminar

The cooperating school districts pay a regular salary for internship teaching, which covers the small cost of graduate tuition.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS III CERTIFICATION

A nondegree (Class III) plan leading to secondary teacher certification is available for those who have earned a BA but do not choose to pursue a graduate degree. Candidates complete all requirements for secondary teacher certification, including professional education courses and courses in their selected fields. Interested students should contact the Department of Education Certification.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT TITLE II REPORTS

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of the U.S. Congress requires each institution of higher education with a teacher preparation program enrolling students receiving federal assistance under this act to report annually to the state and the general public certain information. This information includes the pass rate of program completers on assessments required by the state for teacher licensure or certification, the statewide pass rate on those assessments, and other basic information on the teacher preparation program.

Rice University's teacher education program is accredited by the state of Texas. The first year pass rate for program completers on assessments required by the state for 2007–08 was 100%, compared with 97% for the overall state pass rate. The combined cumulative pass rate for program completers on assessments required by the state for 2006–08 was 100%, compared to 98% for the overall state pass rate. Twenty-five students were enrolled in the program in 2008–09. Student teachers spent an average of 40 hours per week in supervised student teaching with a student/faculty ratio of 1.8-to-1. Rice teacher education program graduates are regularly recruited by school districts in Houston and the surrounding areas because of their innovative ideas, content, expertise, leadership abilities, and dedication to the teaching profession.

See EDUC in the Courses of Instruction section.