

**TEACHER TO NEW CERTIFICATION  
ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION  
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**For whom:**

- Candidates who have degrees
- Candidates who are currently certified as a teacher

**Application for Teacher To New Certification Alternate Route:**

- Candidates must submit transcripts verifying completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university
- Candidates must submit a copy of a valid Idaho teaching certificate
- Candidates will meet with an advisor to develop a planned program leading to a recommendation for the Exceptional Child Certificate, K-12 Generalist Endorsement
- Candidates with a minimum gpa of 2.5 will be accepted into the Teacher to New Certification Alternate Route Program and may proceed to take required courses

**Semester One**

- Candidates should apply for Admission to Teacher Education (due the first Friday in February for Fall admittance and the third Friday in September for Spring admittance)
- Candidates must successfully pass the Praxis I Writing subtest (minimum score of 172) and Mathematics subtest (minimum score of 175)
- Candidates must successfully pass the Educational Technology Assessment (minimum score of 75%)
- Candidates must successfully pass the state board approved content/pedagogy assessment. This assessment is Praxis II #0014 Elementary Content Knowledge (minimum score of 143).
- Candidates must complete an introductory course in special education (ED-SPED 250, 350, or 550), if required
- Candidates may take additional required courses, if desired; the prerequisite of Admission to Teacher Education will be over-ridden for Semester One only
- Candidates who successfully complete the above requirements will be fully admitted to Teacher Education

**Semester Two and Subsequent Coursework**

- Once admitted to Teacher Education, candidates may take other upper division courses for which all pre/co-requisites have been met
- Candidates must complete all of the remaining requirements within the period that the alternative authorization is valid (three years, non-renewable)
- Candidates must complete a minimum of nine semester credits annually

## **Recommendation for Certification**

- In order to be recommended for certification, candidates must successfully complete all required coursework and successfully pass the following assessments:
  - Praxis II #0353 Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (minimum score: 156)
  - Praxis II #0542 Education of Exceptional Students: Mild to Moderate Disabilities (minimum score: 168)
- Under certain circumstances, candidates may request that ED-SPED 467 Professional Year III: Teaching Experience in Special Education be waived; candidates should consult with an advisor
  - The Superintendent of the school district in which the candidate is employed will verify in writing:
    - How long the candidate has been employed as a special educator under a Teacher to New Certification alternate route
    - That the candidate was successful as a special educator and supervised by a qualified professional
    - That the candidate demonstrates proficiency as a special educator
  - The candidate will supply the following documents:
    - A statement that they understand that the special education teaching certificate they receive may not be reciprocal in other states, if the student teaching experience in special education is waived
    - A copy of the most recent performance evaluation from the school district

## **Notes regarding procedures to credit prior learning and experience:**

- No more than 6 credits of prior learning can be earned and applied to program requirements
- The candidate should read the course description of all required courses. If the candidate believes s/he has all the knowledge and skills suggested by the course description, the candidate should make arrangements to get credit for the entire course using existing university procedures (test or portfolio). Such credit cannot be requested until the candidate has successfully completed 12 credits at Boise State University.
- If the candidate has a great deal of knowledge and skills, but not all that is suggested by the course description, the candidate must enroll in the class but may negotiate with the instructor on how to participate in class only in the areas of deficit. The candidate will be expected to document relevant prior knowledge and skills using either a test or portfolio method prior to enrolling in the course.
- If the district employing the candidate offers workshops on relevant topics for credit, the candidate may request that the credit be applied toward meeting program requirements. If the workshop addresses only a portion of a particular course's content, the candidate may enroll in ED-SPED 496 Independent Study for an appropriate amount of credit and address the remaining course content

requirements. This may include attending relevant class sessions and completing relevant assignments.

**Other Considerations:**

- Candidates who successfully complete 30 credits while completing an alternate route to special education certification may concurrently meet requirements for a second baccalaureate degree and should contact an advisor for more information
- Candidates who are interested in working on a graduate degree in special education should speak to an advisor about substituting selected graduate courses for undergraduate courses required for certification
- In order to maximize opportunities for employment as a high qualified educator, candidates are encouraged to work towards completion of a subject area endorsement in one of the following areas: Reading, English, Mathematics, or Science