



# Requirements for Career and Technical Education Certificates

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

## Agriculture

### General Information

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The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Agriculture K-12 Certificate authorizes the holder for a CTE Agriculture teaching position.

### Glossary of Terms

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“*Agriculture Occupational Area*” means work experience in Agriculture, agriculture operations, and related sciences; natural resources and conservation; environmental design; landscape architecture; agricultural biological engineering; forest engineering, biological and biomedical sciences; parks, recreation and leisure facilities management; geological and earth sciences/geosciences; veterinary/animal health technician/veterinary assistant; environmental health; and veterinary medicine.

“*Verified Work Experience*” means written documentation from a current or former supervisor, a current school superintendent, or the Department of Education CTE Programmatic State Supervisor indicating that the applicant has performed work experience in the occupational area.

### Application Process

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**Step 1:** Apply for an [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.

**Step 2:** Have your current or former supervisor, or a current school superintendent, complete and sign the [Verification of Occupational Experience](#) form to document the required clock hours or years of work experience in an agriculture occupational area (not required if applying under Option E).

**Step 3:** Request official transcript(s) documenting required degree(s) and/or coursework, if required. **Note:** Electronic official transcripts must be emailed to [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov). Official paper transcripts may be mailed to yourself and submitted with the Application for Certification.

**Step 4:** Submit the Application for Certification and required materials to the Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit.

### Application Checklist

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- Completed [Application for Certification](#)
- Appropriate fee (See *Application for Certification*)
- A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
- Documentation to meet requirements under **Option A, B, C, D, E, or F**.
  - [Verification of Occupational Experience](#) (*Option A, B, C, D, and F*)
  - Official transcript(s) documenting required degree/coursework (*Option A, B, D, and F*)
  - Teaching Evaluation(s) (*Option B*)
  - Photocopy of comparable out-of-state certificate (*Option E*)



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## Standard Career and Technical Education, K-12 Agriculture Certificates

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*The Standard CTE and Standard Specialized CTE certificates are valid for 12 years and may be renewed.*

**Requirements for the Standard Career and Technical Education (CTE), K-12 Agriculture Certificate are:**

1. A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
2. Documentation to meet requirements under **Option A, B, C, D, E, or F:**

### **Option A: Bachelor's degree in an Agriculture area. The requirements are:**

1. Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's or more advanced degree in Agriculture area from an accredited institution;
2. Official transcripts documenting thirty (30) semester hours of courses in a Agriculture area;
3. Two hundred forty (240) clock hours of [verified work experience](#) in an Agriculture occupational area.

**Requirements #4, #5, and #6 must be completed within three years from date of issuance of a Standard Agriculture Certificate. Please see Allowable Deficiency Requirements below for further information.**

4. Fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in professional knowledge in career and technical education, to include any of the following areas: principles/philosophy of career and technical education, developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation, and methodologies, instructional technology, instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations, assessing, monitoring, and reporting progress, the learning environment, including classroom management, teaching students with exceptionalities, or professional responsibility and ethical conduct. Fifteen semester hours may be obtained through Board or Department-CTE approved professional development. Fifteen clock hours of approved professional development equals one semester hour.
5. A passing score on the NES Professional Knowledge Secondary Exam or qualification for a waiver of the exam requirement.
6. Completion of the Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements.

### **Option B: Valid non-CTE Arizona teaching certificate or an Arizona CTE teaching certificate in another content area. The requirements are:**

1. A valid Arizona Provisional or Standard teaching certificate for teachers in Birth through grade 12.
2. Three semester hours of courses in professional knowledge in career and technical education to include any of the following areas: principles/philosophy of career and technical education, developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation, and methodologies for career and technical education, or instructional technology. Three semester hours may be obtained through Board or Department-CTE approved professional development. Fifteen clock hours of approved professional development equals one semester hour; and
3. One year of the most recent teacher evaluation(s) approved by a certificated administrator, or the administrator's designee, in a PreK-12 school setting and issued during the term of the Arizona teaching certificate exhibiting satisfactory performance in the classroom; and
4. Two hundred forty clock hours of [verified work experience](#) in an Agriculture occupational area.

**Requirements #5, #6, and #7 must be completed within three years from date of issuance of a Standard Agriculture Certificate. Please see Allowable Deficiency Requirements below for further information.**

5. Nine semester hours of subject knowledge courses in Agriculture.



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6. A passing score on the NES Professional Knowledge Secondary Exam or qualification for a waiver of the exam requirement.
7. Completion of the Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements.

### Option C: Business and industry professional. The requirements are:

1. Six thousand clock hours of [verified work experience](#) in an Agriculture occupational area.

**Requirements #2, #3, and #4 must be completed within three years from date of issuance of a Standard Agriculture Certificate. Please see Allowable Deficiency Requirements below for further information.**

2. Fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in professional knowledge in career and technical education, to include any of the following areas: principles/philosophy of career and technical education, developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation, and methodologies, instructional technology, instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations, assessing, monitoring, and reporting progress, the learning environment, including classroom management, teaching students with exceptionalities, or professional responsibility and ethical conduct. Fifteen semester hours may be obtained through Board or Department-CTE approved professional development. Fifteen clock hours of approved professional development equals one semester hour.
3. A passing score on the NES Professional Knowledge Secondary Exam or qualification for a waiver of the exam requirement.
4. Completion of the Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements.

### Option D: Bachelor's degree and an Agriculture education teacher preparation program. The requirements are:

1. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree that included completion of a Board approved teacher preparation program in CTE Agriculture, or a program from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the following topics in career and technical education and any others as required by law: principles/philosophy of career and technical education; instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations; the learning environment, including classroom management; developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies; assessing, monitoring, and reporting progress; teaching students with exceptionalities; and professional responsibility and ethical conduct.
2. Two hundred forty clock hours of [verified work experience](#) in an Agriculture occupational area.

**Requirements #3 and #4 must be completed within three years from date of issuance of a Standard Agriculture Certificate. Please see Allowable Deficiency Requirements below for further information.**

3. A passing score on the NES Professional Knowledge Secondary Exam or qualification for a waiver of the exam requirement.
4. Completion of the Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements.

### Option E: Out-of-State Certificate. The requirements are:

1. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Standard CTE Agriculture certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Submit a photocopy of your valid, comparable CTE Agriculture certificate.

**Requirements #2 must be completed within three years from date of issuance of a Standard Agriculture Certificate. Please see Allowable Deficiency Requirements below for further information.**

2. Completion of the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements.



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## Option F: Standard Specialized CTE Agriculture Certificate. The requirements are:

1. Five years of [verified work experience](#) in an Agriculture occupational area.
2. Demonstration of expertise in Agriculture through one of the following:
  - a. A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in Agriculture; or
  - b. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree and completion of 24 semester hours of coursework in Agriculture; or
  - c. An Associate's degree in Agriculture; or
  - d. An industry certification, license, or credential in Agriculture approved by the Arizona Department of Education CTE Agriculture Program Specialist or CTE Program Services Director; or
  - e. Verification of experience teaching Agriculture courses for the last two consecutive years, and a total of at least three years, at one or more accredited postsecondary institutions.

## Allowable Deficiency Requirements

Applicants may qualify for a Standard CTE Certificate with the following Allowable Deficiencies which must be completed within **three years** from date of issuance:

1. Arizona Constitution: A college course or appropriate examination covering the Provisions and Principles of the Arizona Constitution.
2. U.S. Constitution: A college course or appropriate examination covering the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution.
3. Professional Knowledge Secondary Exam.  
**One** of the following:
  - A. **NES/AEPA:** A passing score on the NES or AEPA Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Secondary exam. Visit [www.aepa.nesinc.com](http://www.aepa.nesinc.com) for further information; **or**
  - B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge Secondary examination from another state or agency. Submit original score reports; **or**
  - C. **NBCT:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a photocopy of the certificate; **or**
  - D. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, **in grades 6-12**. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience. *Note: Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.*
4. Completion of all required semester hours of CTE professional knowledge coursework.

**NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution, U.S. Constitution, Professional Knowledge Secondary exam, or CTE professional knowledge coursework, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. If you do not complete all allowable requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate.