



Requirements for the Alternative Teaching Certificate

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Alternative Teaching Certificate – PreK-12

The Alternative Teaching certificate is valid for two years and may be extended yearly for no more than two consecutive years. The certificate entitles the holder to enter into a teaching contract while completing the requirements for an Arizona Standard Professional teaching certificate. The candidate shall be enrolled in an Arizona State Board authorized alternative path to certification program, or an Arizona State Board approved teacher preparation program. An individual is not eligible to hold the Alternative Teaching certificate more than once in a five-year period.

Requirements for the Alternative Teaching Certificate are:

- 1. Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).
- 2. AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
- 3. Bachelor's degree:** Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
- 4. Verification Letter:** A letter verifying that you are enrolled in an Arizona State Board approved alternative path to certification program or an Arizona State Board approved educator preparation program. **The letter must be signed by the appropriate designee from the educator preparation program.** ([List of contacts from the Arizona State Board approved educator preparation programs](#)).
- 5. Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement:** Applicants who are seeking an Alternative Teaching Certificate that reflects the certification area they are qualified to teach must meet the subject knowledge exam requirement for the Standard Professional Teaching Certificate they are pursuing. Applicants who do not meet the subject knowledge exam requirement may qualify for an Alternative Teaching Certificate that does not show a certification area. For information on the subject knowledge exam requirement, please review the [Requirements for the Standard Professional Teaching Certificate](#) you are pursuing.

Requirements #6 and #7 are **allowable deficiencies** which must be completed in the specified timeframe

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

- 6. Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
- 7. U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.

Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. **

****NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Alternative 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. **



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Extension of the Alternative Teaching Certificate

The Alternative Teaching Certificate may be extended yearly for no more than two consecutive years.

The Requirements to Extend the Alternative Teaching Intern Certificate are:

1. **Application:** A completed [Application to Extend an Alternative Teaching/Teaching Intern Certificate](#).
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (IVP) fingerprint card.
3. **Verification Letter:** A letter from the Board approved alternative path to certification program or an Arizona State Board authorized teacher preparation program verifying you are enrolled and making adequate progress toward completion of the teacher preparation program. The letter must be signed by the appropriate designee with the educator preparation program. [Please see the list of contacts from the Arizona State Board approved educator preparation programs](#).
4. **Arizona and U.S. Constitution (if required):** Official transcript or exam score report documenting completion of the Arizona and US constitution requirements, if required.