

# CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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## **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction offers the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies as the degree leading to teacher certification at the elementary level of Early Childhood through Grade 6, at the middle school level of Grades 4 through 8 and All Level Special Education. Through this degree students choosing early childhood certification obtain a broad-based content preparation with a strong emphasis on language arts and reading. At the middle school level, certification areas include Generalist, Math, Science, Language Arts/Social Studies, and Math/Science. English as a Second Language (ESL) certification is included in the BS Interdisciplinary Studies degree with EC-6, All Level Special Education, and Middle School certification except for Math/Science. At the graduate level certifications are available for Gifted and Talented Education and Technology Applications. Application for admission to the Tarleton Teacher Education Program must be made during the junior year while enrolled in Education 320. Requirements for admission, retention, and admission to student teaching are described on pp. 133-141 of this catalog. Prior to enrolling in any teacher education course work, students must complete a minimum of 60 hours of coursework, excluding developmental courses.

## **SECONDARY AND ALL-LEVEL EDUCATION**

Students working toward secondary and all-level certification will pursue a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree with a major and minor, if applicable, in academic disciplines. Students will also take professional education courses to meet certification requirements. While not offering a major in secondary education, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction does offer the professional development courses required to obtain secondary- and all-level certification.

Students obtain academic advisement for secondary and all-level certification programs in the department of their major. Application for admission to the Tarleton Teacher Education Program must be made during the junior year while enrolled in Education 320. Requirements for admission, retention, and admission to student teaching are described on pp. 133-141. Prior to enrolling in any teacher education course work, students must complete a minimum of 60 hours of coursework excluding developmental courses.

## **ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION**

The Tarleton Model for Accelerated Teacher Education (TMATE) is an alternative teacher certification program offered in Stephenville and Fort Worth. Its purpose is to prepare highly qualified individuals to serve as public school teachers in Texas. TMATE is a collaborative teacher education program between Tarleton State University and public school districts in the Tarleton service area.

TMATE is an alternative certification program designed for persons who have already completed a baccalaureate degree and who have a record of exemplary academic achievement and/or work experience. Certification is earned through a combination of intensive summer course work coupled with a paid, year-long internship in a teaching position with a public school. The internship is jointly sponsored and supervised by Tarleton State University and the participating school district. Interns develop professional teaching skills and values through the combination of University classes and practical classroom experience.

Through TMATE, teaching certificates may be earned in the following certification areas: Early Childhood - Grade 4; Middle School (grades 4 - 8); and High School (grades 8 - 12). All-level certifications are available in Generic Special Education, Physical Education, Art, and Music. Bilingual and ESL certifications are offered only through the TMATE - Fort Worth ISD program.

## **TMATE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

TMATE applicants must present a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with an overall GPA of at least 2.75 and a GPA of 2.75 in the area of certification. Passing scores on each section of THEA or acceptable scores on the General GRE are required for admission to TMATE. Applicants who submit an acceptable GRE score concurrent with admission to TMATE may be eligible to apply a portion of their TMATE credits toward a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not constitute a guarantee of admission to the program. Applicants will be evaluated to determine an appropriate level of oral language proficiency and critical thinking ability. Additional evaluation procedures include a structured oral interview, formal writing sample, work evaluations from previous employment, performance on a standardized test of critical thinking, and additional evaluations prescribed by TMATE admission policies.

Concurrent to applying for admission to TMATE, applicants must also apply for a teaching position with a school district within a 125-mile radius of Tarleton. (Interns in the TMATE-FWISD program must seek employment in Fort Worth ISD.) Thus, applicants are subjected to a dual screening process: one conducted by the University and the other by the school district. After initial screening and acceptance by the University, services of the University Placement Office are available to applicants to assist in obtaining a placement for their internship.

A full description of the TMATE program is provided on the website, [www.tarleton.edu/~tmate](http://www.tarleton.edu/~tmate). Applicants may also contact one of the TMATE offices.

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