



West Virginia is known for majestic landscapes, fantastic outdoor activities, and compelling business opportunities. If you are looking to pursue a career that empowers you to make a positive impact on the lives of children and their communities, look no further. Review the summary information below to begin your journey and change lives in the Mountain State!

Professional Teaching Certificate Requirements

As of May 27, 2021, there are **four state-based pathways** for acquiring a Professional Teaching Certificate. All require that before individuals receive the certificate, they must:

- » Possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with the minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- » Pass all required testing as described in the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory on the WVDE website
- » Successfully complete a state-approved program/coursework (see pathways below)
- » Meet general requirements of WVBE Policy with a qualifying outcome on criminal history checks

Explanation of West Virginia Pathways

Pathway 1: Traditional Certification Teacher Preparation Programs

West Virginia is home to a variety of colleges and universities which provide outstanding traditional programs for beginning educators. To get started, visit the Preparation section of www.TeachWV.com to review a list of state-approved traditional programs. Contact an approved provider to inquire about their program's entry requirements. Individuals utilizing this pathway must fulfill requirements for criminal history checks, coursework (including a teacher performance assessment), testing, and a clinical experience to successfully complete the program and qualify for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Individuals enrolled in a traditional teacher preparation program who already possess a bachelor's degree and qualifying grade point average may communicate with school districts to pursue employment if an area of critical need and shortage exists in the endorsement(s) they are working to become licensed for by seeking a First-Class Full-Time Permit to teach while they are completing program requirements.

Pathway 2: Alternative Certification Teacher Preparation Programs

Many West Virginia school districts provide alternative certification programs which may only be used when an area of critical need and shortage exists and allow individuals to teach while they are completing program requirements. To get started, visit the Preparation section of www.TeachWV.com to review a list of state-approved alternative certification program providers and contact the county's human resources or personnel office. Individuals who wish to enroll into a program must apply for qualifying positions and become recommended by the school district to be issued an Alternative Teaching Certificate. The state-minimum criteria for candidates to acquire an Alternative Teaching Certificate and enroll into programs includes the following:

- » General Education and Special Education Endorsements:
 - › Bachelor's degree
 - › Minimum 2.5 GPA
 - › Pass basic skills Praxis exams
 - › General requirements of WVBE Policy (with a qualifying outcome on criminal history checks)

- » Additional Criteria for General Education Endorsements:
 - › An academic degree major OR occupational qualifications, related to the vacancy's required endorsement(s)
 - › Pass content specific Praxis tests

Upon successful completion of the program, testing, and receiving an "Approved" rating on the Comprehensive Evaluation Report", these individuals must meet all conversion requirements for the Provisional Teaching Certificate (a non-transferrable Professional Certificate). Those holding a Provisional Teaching Certificate may advance their licensure by meeting conversion requirements for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Pathway 3: State-Approved Teacher Preparation Coursework

In response to the passage of Senate Bill 14, a new pathway has been created to allow individuals who possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and an overall 2.5 GPA to complete coursework pursuant to §18A-3-2a(a)(1)(C) for receiving a Professional Teaching Certificate. To get started, visit the Preparation section of www.TeachWV.com to review a list of state-approved courses recognized as pursuant to this section of West Virginia State Code. Individuals utilizing this pathway must fulfill requirements for coursework, testing and criminal history checks to qualify for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Pathway 4: WVDE Alternative Certification Programs

The WVBE has authorized the WVDE to provide alternative certification programs under §18A-3-1j, which allow individuals who possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and an overall 2.5 GPA to complete coursework approved by the WVDE for receiving a Professional Teaching Certificate. To get started, visit the Preparation section of www.TeachWV.com to review a list of state-approved courses recognized as pursuant to this section of West Virginia State Code. Individuals utilizing this pathway must fulfill requirements for coursework, testing and criminal history checks to qualify for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Individuals who want to pursue completing Out-of-State Programs to Acquire a Professional Teaching Certificate, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificate or Substitute Teaching Permit, please refer to the Recruitment and Licensure Pathways section of www.TeachWV.com.



Once you have reviewed this summary information, please refer to WVBE Policies (ex. 5202, 5100, and 5901) for complete requirements or contact the Office of Educator Development and Support Services at 304-558-3119.