The Texas A&M University Accelerate Online Certification Program is an innovative approach to preparing secondary teachers for the state of Texas. Certification may be obtained in Life Science 8-12, Physical Science 8-12, Chemistry 8-12, Science 8-12, Mathematics 8-12, History 8-12, or English Language Arts and Reading 8-12. The program is designed to provide graduates and professionals possessing a bachelor’s degree, as well as Texas A&M University students late in their undergraduate careers, with an accelerated online program of educator preparation that can be completed in approximately 18 months. Accelerate Online provides an individual the flexibility of completing teacher certification preparation through online instruction, a 40-hour field experience and a year-long paid internship in a secondary public school in Texas. Enrollment at Texas A&M University is not required to participate in Accelerate Online.

Accelerate Online is a preparation program and thus completion of the pre-internship training does not guarantee employment in a school district. Employment ultimately rests in the hands of the employing agency (i.e., the school district).

## Admission Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completed Application Packet Must Be Received By</th>
<th>TExES Registration Deadline</th>
<th>TExES Administration Deadline</th>
<th>Orientation Meeting and Begin Modules Deadline</th>
<th>TExES Score Report Date for Multiple Choice Tests</th>
<th>Probable Intern Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicant holds a baccalaureate degree in a discipline related to the intended certification area (Texas A&M University – College Station students can begin the application process if they are within one year of completing a baccalaureate degree). Please note that a bachelor’s degree is a requirement for both the internship portion of the program and certification.

- Graduates of foreign universities must have their transcripts evaluated by an approved agency. A list of foreign credential evaluation services can be found at:

  https://secure.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/certinfo/forcredevalservice.asp.
When requesting an evaluation, be sure that the agency specifically states that you have received the U.S. equivalent of a bachelor’s degree in your subject area AND provides a detailed course-by-course listing of all course work.

- Applicant must have successfully completed appropriate hours of content area/teaching field course work from an accredited institution. The required course work is outlined on the Accelerate website.

- Applicant must have at least a 2.5 GPR in their baccalaureate course work attempted.

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident and reside in Texas.

**Texas Academic Skills Program Examination (TASP)**

**Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA)**

**Undergraduate Applicants**

- Applicant must pass all sections of the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) examination or the Texas Higher Education Assessment or an equivalent examination such as the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) or be exempt from TASP or THEA. Selected university courses completed with a grade of "A or B" within past five years may be substituted in lieu of a TASP or THEA examination passing score. More information regarding testing dates may be found at:


- Minimum acceptable scores on the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) and Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) exam:

  230 on each reading and mathematics
  220 on writing

**or meet one of the following options to establish mastery as defined by the State Board of Educator Certification:**

- ACT score from a single sitting in the last five years must equal at least 23 with at least 19 per section.

- SAT scores from a single sitting in the last five years must equal at least 1070 with at least 500 per section.

- Scores of 2200 or higher on the 11th grade exit level TAKS math exam and a combination of 2200 or higher on the reading sub-score and a written composition sub-score of at least 3 in writing on the E/LA 11th grade exit level TAKS exam.

- Selected university courses completed with a grade of "A or B" within past five years may be substituted in lieu of a TASP examination passing score.

- ACT and SAT scores may be no more than five years old and exit-level TAKS scores may be no more than three years old.
Graduate Applicants

- The TASP is not an admission requirement for applicants possessing a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution as established by the Accelerate Online policy board.

Background check for criminal activity

- Applicant must pass a background check.

Recommendations

- The applicant will provide two recommendation forms indicating the likelihood for success as a teacher.

Language Assessment

- Applicant must meet one of the following at the time of application.
  
  - Earned a baccalaureate degree in the United States.
  
  - Earned a baccalaureate degree from an English speaking institution (all transcripts must be in English and must include a letter from the university/evaluation company stating all instruction was in English).
  
  - Completed the following:
    - Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL-iBT – www.toefl.org) with a total score of 90 and the following minimum section requirements:
      - Speaking: 26
      - Writing: 22
      - All other sections: 20

Computer Access

- Applicant has access to an Internet-capable computer (preferably a PC). Some lesson functions do not operate with Apple computers.

Program Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-refundable Application Fee</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Includes cost of a background check)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee</td>
<td>$4800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Includes online instruction, mentor, supervisor, additional training and materials)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Fees Associated with Program

(These fees are paid directly to the State of Texas)
and are subject to change)

TExES Content Exam $120
TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam $120
Probationary Certification (includes fingerprinting fee) $104
Standard Certification $75

Total Program Cost** $5369

** Fees shown as of March 27, 2010 (subject to change)

Electronic Fee Payment

The payment schedule for Accelerate Online has been divided into 12 monthly payments. The first payment will be due at the Program Orientation. Subsequent payments are due on the 15th of each month. If payment is received after the 15th of the month, a $30.00 late fee will be charged for every 30 days the payment is late. An electronic payment system has been implemented which allows for payments to be made by any major credit card.

The Application Process

The following chart outlines the application process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete an online interest form</th>
<th><a href="http://surveys.cehd.tamu.edu/accelerate/interest.html">http://surveys.cehd.tamu.edu/accelerate/interest.html</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive response with program information and request for official transcripts (or UIN if TAMU student - TAMU students will also need to provide official transcripts from other institutions where course work was taken unless the course work has been transferred to TAMU.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide transcripts or UIN Transcripts must be official. This means the transcripts must arrive at the Accelerate Office in a sealed envelope prepared by the issuing institution. (Allow 2 weeks for review of course work after receipt of transcripts or UIN)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on response received, either</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provide additional information requested</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Follow up on additional steps outlined in response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete additional required course work OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Receive application information and materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If application materials are received, submit application by the deadline as outlined in the admission policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon receipt of completed application packet, you will be contacted to schedule an interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in scheduled interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive a decision regarding acceptance to the program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scheduled Interview and Acceptance Decision

Once the application packet is completed, the applicant will be contacted to schedule an interview with the Accelerate Online selection committee. The interview will take approximately 1 ½ – 2 hours. Applicants will complete a sample content exam on the day of the interview. Interview questions will reflect communication and interpersonal skills as well as career directions. Following the interview, you will be notified regarding your acceptance into Accelerate Online. An interview does not guarantee admission. The admission decision will be based on the contents of the completed application packet, scores on the sample content exam and the interview. The decision of the selection committee may not be appealed.

Preparing and Qualifying for Internship

Information regarding registration for the TExES content exam will be included with notification of acceptance. Upon acceptance into the program, you will be notified of the scheduled Program Orientation session you must attend. NOTE: Any student who does not successfully complete the TExES content examination will be required to complete remediation in order to address apparent deficiencies before attempting the examination a second time. In order to be eligible to begin an internship, a participant must pass the TExES content exam, complete all pre-service program components, and secure a teaching position in a Texas public school.

Candidate Training and Internship

Training

Orientation

A mandatory orientation session will be held at Texas A&M University for those applicants accepted into the program. Policies and guidelines will be discussed and an introduction to the online learning management system will be given.

Candidate Training

Once given access to the online courses, candidates will be expected to make timely progress toward completion of the modules. Completion of all lessons and submission of all associated artifacts is a requisite for employment by school districts.

Field Experience

It is strongly recommended that the candidate complete the first online course prior to beginning the required 40-hour early field experience (2 class periods each day for 4 consecutive weeks). This early field experience must take place in a Texas public school and in a classroom related to the grade level and certification area being pursued. Assignments for the early field experience will be posted in the online course and will include the submission of formal classroom observations, lesson plans, reflections and other assigned activities. Candidates completing the early field experience in the Bryan/College Station area will be placed in a local public school. Candidates completing the early field experience in a distant location will be required to make arrangements for the early field experience in a Texas public school. Additional information regarding the early field experience will be provided at the program orientation meeting. The early field experience and all submissions must be complete prior to starting an internship.
Internship Year

Employment

*Accelerate Online* interns complete a one-year teaching assignment in a Texas public school. It is the responsibility of the intern to secure employment with an accredited public school district. Accelerate Online staff provides resources to assist participant in locating positions. Admission to *Accelerate Online* does not guarantee employment as the hiring decision ultimately lies with school districts. The candidate becomes an intern after completing all the preservice program components (online courses, field experience, online internship orientation and all associated submissions), passing the TExES content exam and securing a position as a teacher in a Texas public school. Both semesters of the internship must be completed in the same school district.

Internship Assignments

Interns will be required to complete assignments outlined in the internship handbook. These assignments serve as a resource for interns to share professional goals, interests, and classroom artifacts with supervisors and other cohort members. A formal review of the assignments will be completed by the university supervisor as part of his/her evaluation.

Mentoring/Supervision

During the year, interns will be assigned a school district mentor and university supervisor. Additional members of the intern support team include supervising administrator and *Accelerate Online* staff. The supervisor will provide support and will observe/evaluate the intern a minimum of six times throughout the year.

Internship Orientation and Mandatory Professional Development

- Prior to the beginning of the internship, interns will participate in training that will focus on internship requirements, instructional strategies, classroom management, and the first days of school.

- Interns will be required to participate in a minimum of 4 professional development activities per semester, as directed by the university supervisor and/or program staff.

Program Requirements

The *Accelerate Online intern* will be expected to:

- Complete all online instruction and the required early field experience in a Texas public school.

- Be in Texas and available to begin by designated date.

- Pass all certification exams required by the state of Texas (Content and PPR).

- Attend and satisfactorily complete all required *Accelerate Online* training experiences, including those outlined by the university supervisor and/or program staff.

- Fulfill all of the requirements of a fulltime teacher as required by the state of Texas, the school district, the
superintendent, and the principal.

- Complete all internship assignments as outlined in the internship handbook.

Certification Requirements

- Upon verification of employment by a public school district and completion of the pre-internship requirements, the intern will receive instructions about applying for **Probationary Certification** from the program staff.

- Upon successful completion of the internship year and remittance of all required payments, the intern will be recommended for **Standard Certification** in the appropriate content area. Successful completion is defined as: meeting all listed program requirements, obtaining recommendation from Accelerate Online, and passing all state required testing. Instructions for completing the application process for **Standard Certification** will be sent to the intern by the program staff.