

TEACHING (K-12) Information Guide

Are you interested in the field of Teaching?

If you are interested in becoming a Teacher (Kindergarten through 12th grade), then you will need to have some of the following interests and strengths:

- Wish to help others
- Enjoy sharing your knowledge with others
- Possess knowledge of a specific subject matter for grades 6-12
- Ability to explain difficult topics in an easy-to-learn manner
- Interested in working with children and/or teenagers
- Patience

To teach K-12 in a public school setting in the United States, a Teaching Certificate is required. Each state issues their own certificate and many states have reciprocity with other states. However, some private and religious schools do not require a teaching certificate and if you wish to teach outside of the U.S., those requirements will vary. Depending on the school, they may accept a Bachelor's degree in a subject and hire you with (or without) the intention of your working toward certification.

Getting a Teacher Certification

In the U.S. there are different age-level certifications:

- Early Education
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Additional certifications: reading specialist, special education, library specialist, counselor

In order to teach, you will need to fulfill certification and licensing requirements. These vary by state, but generally include:

- Obtain a Bachelor's degree
- Complete a teacher preparation program, which includes either a Bachelor's, Master's or alternative Post-Baccalaureate university program
- Complete all requirements for a state or national certification

Additional requirements before you can teach:

Most schools require you to pass background checks and tests, such as:

- Act 33/34
- Criminal Record
- Fingerprinting
- [PRAXIS Tests](#)

Resources to help you with this journey:

1. CMU Resources
 - a. The School of Music offers a Teacher Certification program for undergraduates: <http://music.cmu.edu/pages/music-education-certification>
2. Outside of CMU
 - a. <http://tobecomeateacher.org>
 - b. <http://www.teachercertification.org>
 - c. <https://www.teach.org/>

- d. The Occupational Outlook Handbook has general information on teaching such as average salaries, work environment, how fast this occupation is growing
 - i. [Information about elementary school teachers](#)
 - ii. [Information about high school teachers](#)

Alternative paths to get into the field of teaching:

- [Teach for America](#)
- Overseas
 - <https://www.ciee.org/teach/>
 - <http://www.goabroad.com/teach-abroad>
 - <http://www.worldteach.org>
- [Alternative Certification Programs](#)
- [Urban Teachers](#)

Job postings for teachers:

1. Some states have a central application website for all school districts in that state such as in [Pennsylvania](#) and [Iowa](#) and [New York](#). For all states, go to <http://tobecomeateacher.org> and click on 'licensing'.
2. www.southernteachers.com
3. [General job postings](#)

Your resume for the field of teaching:

Certifications – List all of your certifications with dates and details

Teaching Experience – List your experience in teaching and be sure to include classroom management skills and teaching methods. Mention any specific lessons or modules that you are especially proud of teaching.

Relevant Experience – Discuss your experience with a specific subject matter

Professional Memberships, Conferences, Presentations – List anything related to your teaching or your subject matter specialty