

**Are you interested in the field of Teaching?**

If you are interested in becoming a Teacher (Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 at CMU
- Complete a teacher preparation program, which includes either a Master's (Master of Arts in Teaching-MAT) or Post-Baccalaureate (professional-year PY) university program
- Complete a semester of student teaching (part of the MAT or PY 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](#) (this varies by state and in Pennsylvania there are also [Pre-Service Academic Performance Tests](#))

**Resources to help you with this journey:**

1. CMU Resources

The School of Music offers a Music Education Teacher Certification program for undergraduates: <https://www.cmu.edu/cfa/music/programs/certificate-programs/music-education-certification.html>



2. Outside of CMU
  - a. Teacher Certification by State <https://teach.com/careers/become-a-teacher/teaching-credential/state-requirements/>
  - b. For PA <https://www.teach.org/>
  - c. 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](#)  
[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](#)
- [Funding to help with your loans](#)

**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](#).
2. [www.southernteachers.com](http://www.southernteachers.com)

**Your resume for the field of teaching:**

Create your resume with all of your accomplishments, experiences and skills.

Be sure to include the following, if applicable:

*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