

*This document applies to applications for initial Florida certification received by the Bureau of Educators Certification **BEFORE JULY 27, 2006.***

Education Coursework Requirements for Florida Professional Certification

If your Statement of Status of Eligibility (SOE) states that you must complete education courses to meet the requirements for issuance of a professional certificate, use the following explanation to assist you in enrolling in appropriate college/university courses or programs. The requirement for most subject areas is a total of 20 semester hours. If your SOE states a lower number, that means you have already completed coursework to satisfy a portion of the professional preparation requirement.

Note: If you are teaching a subject for which you do not hold certification, then you are considered “out-of-field” and must complete 6 hours of college coursework every year that you are out-of-field. If your SOE states that you must complete education courses for your professional certificate, you may use education coursework to meet the 6-hour out-of-field requirement.

Twenty (20) semester hours in education courses as follows:

- 1. Six (6) semester hours to include credit in (a) sociological foundations and (b) psychological foundations of education.** The credit does not have to be divided evenly between the two requirements.

- a. Sociological Foundations**

Sample course titles:

<i>History of Education</i>	<i>Social Bases of Education</i>	<i>American Education</i>
<i>Principles of Education</i>	<i>School and Community</i>	<i>Educational Sociology</i>
<i>Philosophy of Education</i>	<i>Comparative Education</i>	<i>Teaching Diverse Populations</i>
<i>Introduction to Education</i>	<i>Ed. in Multicultural Society</i>	

- b. Psychological Foundations**

Sample course titles:

<i>Learning</i>	<i>Developmental Psychology</i>	
<i>Theories of Learning</i>	<i>Human Growth & Development</i>	
<i>Psychology of Learning</i>	<i>Adolescent Psychology</i>	
<i>Classroom Learning Principles</i>	<i>Child Development</i>	
<i>Cognition</i>	<i>Psychological Foundations of Education</i>	

Courses may have education, psychology or other prefixes. General psychology, abnormal psychology, psychology of exceptional children, behavior, group behavior, personality dynamics or mental hygiene may not be used.

Appropriate courses at a community or junior college are acceptable in the foundations areas.

- 2. Six (6) semester hours in general methods of teaching, curriculum, school administration or school supervision in the elementary or secondary school.**

Sample course titles:

<i>School Administration</i>	<i>Curriculum (not related to a specific subject)</i>	
<i>School Supervision</i>	<i>Educational Tests and Measurements</i>	
<i>School Law</i>	<i>Educational Leadership</i>	
<i>School Organization</i>	<i>Audio-Visual Education</i>	
<i>Classroom Management</i>	<i>Teaching Strategies (not related to a specific subject)</i>	
<i>Field Experiences</i>	<i>Pre-student teaching</i>	
<i>Educational Leadership</i>	<i>Using the Computer in the Classroom</i>	
<i>School Finance</i>	<i>Instructional Technology (not “intro to”)</i>	

Courses should relate to the principles of teaching, general curriculum, instructional design, testing and measurement, evaluation of the school program, general methods and school organization and administration needed by teachers in the public schools.

Courses to satisfy this area must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher.

3. **Special Methods** of teaching your area of certification.

The Special Methods requirement depends on whether the area of certification is K-12, 5-9, or 6-12.

a. **Grades K-12 subject areas**

Four (4) semester hours in methods of teaching the subject to include credit at the *elementary and secondary* levels for each of the following subjects:

Art	Health	Foreign Languages	ESOL
Computer Science	Humanities	Dance	Music

One course for at least three semester hours of credit which is a comprehensive (K-12) course is acceptable. One year of teaching experience in the middle grades which includes 6th and either 7th or 8th grade experience will satisfy 3 semester hours in elementary and secondary special methods for that subject.

b. **Middle Grades (5-9) and Secondary (6-12)**

Two (2) semester hours in methods of teaching the subject at *either* the middle grades or secondary level for each middle grades and secondary subject are required.

Notes concerning Special Methods:

- The following subjects do not require special methods of teaching. Therefore, only 18 total semester hours of education courses are required:

Educational Leadership	Physical Education
Educational Media Specialist	Primary Education
Elementary Education	Reading
Exceptional Child areas	School Psychologist
Guidance and Counseling	Administration of Adult Education
- Courses to satisfy special methods must be taken at a **senior institution** at the **upper division level** or higher.

4. **Elective credit**

All education courses completed at an acceptable junior/community or senior (four-year) institution of higher learning which are not used to satisfy a specific requirement in professional preparation may be recorded as elective credit.

Sample course titles and categories:

<i>Vocational Education</i>	<i>Higher Education</i>
<i>Adult Education</i>	<i>Exceptional Child Education</i>
<i>Educational Research</i>	<i>Elementary Education</i>
<i>ESOL methods</i>	<i>Teacher Effectiveness Training</i>
<i>Seminar in Education</i>	<i>Introduction to Guidance</i>
<i>EME 2040 (Introduction to Computers in Education, Teaching with Technology, and other similar titles) is acceptable for elective credit only.</i>	

Miscellaneous Information

- **College Teaching Experience:** Teaching a college course is considered the same as taking the same course for credit and therefore may possibly be used to meet professional preparation requirements. Acceptable verification shall be a letter on university letterhead from the registrar listing (1) course title, (2) course prefix and number, (3) number of semester hours earned by students in the course. College teaching experience is not acceptable for the practical experience in teaching requirement.
- **Coursework waiver option: Teaching Experience in an Elementary or Secondary School.** Teaching experience earned in an elementary or secondary school may be applied in lieu of college credit in professional preparation. You may waive up to six hours of coursework with two years of teaching experience. Note, however, that in order to waive special methods, the teaching experience must be in the subject. For example, to waive 2 semester hours of teaching mathematics, you would need at least one year of experience in teaching mathematics. Please check with your Personnel Specialist on the rules that govern use of teaching experience in lieu of course credit.
- To **verify** whether or not a **course** meets a professional preparation requirement, you may contact the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Educator Certification at 1-800-445-6739. Be prepared to state the name of the college/university, the course prefix, the course number, and the course title.