

PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
in
SECONDARY EDUCATION
TEACHER LICENSURE
PROGRAM

College of Education
Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning
University of Nevada, Reno
Mailstop 280
Reno, NV 89557

Office (775) 784-4961
Fax (775) 327-5220
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PROFESSIONAL DEGREE in SECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHER LICENSURE PROGRAM

Revised January 2008

The Professional Degree in Secondary Education Teacher Licensure Program enables students who have completed an undergraduate degree in a field other than education to become licensed to teach in Nevada.

This program **DOES NOT** lead to a master's degree. However, should a student decide to pursue a masters degree, Graduate School policy allows up to 9 graduate credits, if appropriate, to be applied to a master's degree. Before applying to the Professional Degree program students should consult the Secondary Masters First-Time Licensure manual to determine which program is most appropriate.

TEACHING MAJOR

Students applying to the Professional Degree program must have already earned a baccalaureate degree from UNR or some other accredited institution. In addition, the student must provide evidence of completion of course work required for an approved teaching major prior to the supervised internship. Course work requirements for teaching majors may differ from those required for the original bachelor's degree, since the teaching major must conform to state licensure requirements. Course work needed to complete an approved teaching major may be taken concurrently with other courses required in the Professional Degree program, however, the teaching major should be completed prior to taking the appropriate content methods course (CTL 66X). The course work for the teaching major must be approved by the student's advisor in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning (CTL). An appropriate advisor will be assigned by the chair of CTL. A complete list of teaching majors and minors can be found in this manual. State licensure requirements can be found at the Nevada Department of Education website: www.doe.nv.gov

TEACHING MINOR

A teaching minor is not required for certification but is recommended since it makes one more marketable as a teacher. As with the major, course work for the teaching minor must be approved by the student's CTL advisor to ensure that it conforms to state licensure requirements.

Approved teaching majors and minors:

MAJOR AND MINOR FIELDS:

Agriculture
 Art
 Biology
 Business
 Chemistry
 Earth Science
 English
 Foreign Languages:
 German
 French
 Spanish
 General Science
 Health
 History
 Family and Consumer Science
 Industrial Education:
 Industrial Arts
 Trade & Industrial Education
 Technology Education
 Journalism
 Mathematics
 Music
 Physical Education (Post Bachelor's only)
 Physical Science
 Physics
 Political Science
 Social Science
 Speech
 Theatre

MINOR FIELDS ONLY:

Anthropology
 Computers in Education
 Economics
 English as a Second Language
 Environmental Science
 Geography
 Geology
 Italian
 Psychology
 Sociology
 Special Education

MINIMUM GPA (grade point average) REQUIREMENTS

For admission to Professional Degree program:	Overall	2.50
	Major	2.50
	Minor	2.30 (if applicable)

For successful completion of Professional Degree:	Overall	2.50
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TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM ADMITTANCE for Professional Degree Students

To apply to the Teacher Education program, professional degree (P.D.) students must submit for approval:

1. An application form (see attached) – requiring:
 - a. two professional letters of recommendation that address the applicant's potential for working effectively with adolescents and being successful in a graduate program
 - b. a reflective essay, three to five pages in length, that discusses the candidate's understanding of the purpose of public education and how the complex issues facing secondary educators are going to affect the candidate as a teacher
 - c. a one page resume

Applications are reviewed on an **on-going basis**.

2. Copies of passing scores in all portions of the PPST, CBEST, or GRE as described in the “Required Tests” section of this manual, or evidence of holding a master’s degree.
3. Undergraduate transcripts meeting GPA requirements described above.
4. A government-issued form of picture identification is required in order to participate in all practica or field-based courses. These courses generally begin in the second year.

REQUIRED TESTS

- A. Nevada licensure requires that prospective teachers demonstrate proficiency in basic skills. This requirement can be met in one of the following ways:
 1. Passing scores on the **Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)**, also known as Praxis I, or **California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST)** in Reading, Writing and Math. Part(s) of these tests that are failed can be taken again.
 2. An **undergraduate GPA of 3.0** or better (as shown on transcripts), **and** minimum **GRE** scores as follows: GRE Verbal: 420, b) GRE Quantitative: 460, and c) GRE Analytical: 430 (old version), GRE Analytical (new version) 5 is acceptable, 4 is undetermined at this time, or
 3. An earned **Master’s degree** in any subject.
- B. Students seeking licensure in Nevada must pass the PRAXIS II examinations. We recommend that these tests be taken in the last semester of course work. They **must** be taken prior to the completion of the supervised internship. Check with your CTL advisor or the Advising Center for the specific test requirements of your program.

CONSTITUTION AND SCHOOL LAW REQUIREMENTS

Prospective teachers must demonstrate knowledge of the US Constitution, Nevada Constitution, and Nevada School Law prior to enrollment in the Supervised Internship.

The US Constitution requirement may be met in two ways:

- A. Successful completion of CH 203 (formerly WT 203), or a US History or Political Science course that covered the constitutional period **or**
- B. Passing the test given periodically for the State Department of Education by the Educational Leadership Department. *

The Nevada Constitution requirement may be met in three ways:

- A. Passing one of several three-credit courses offered at UNR or a state community college (CH 203 (formerly WT 203), PSC 103, PSC 208, HIST 102, HIST 111, HIST 217);
- B. Passing a one-credit correspondence course offered through Independent Learning (PSC 100c), **or**
- C. Passing the Nevada Constitution test given for the Nevada State Department of Education by the Educational Leadership department. *

The Nevada School Law requirement is met by successful completion of EL 401, EL 735, or EL 740.

* For exam information call the Department of Educational Leadership at (775) 784-6518 x2318.

OBTAIN A SUBSTITUTE LICENSE IN NEVADA

To be eligible for the supervised internship (student teaching) placement in public schools, students must submit to fingerprinting and a background check. This is best completed through application for a substitute license in Nevada. *An arrest and conviction, depending on the severity of the case, may disqualify an applicant from obtaining a substitute license.* Obtaining a substitute license will also make the process of applying for a teaching credential in Nevada much easier. Students who will not teach in Nevada may choose to have fingerprinting and a background check completed through a local police department. This process must be completed prior to approval for a supervised internship placement. For more information about a substitute license, contact the Nevada State Department of Education in Carson City, www.doe.nv.gov, or the Director of Field Experience in the College of Education.

SUPERVISED INTERNSHIP

Most supervised intern placements are made in the Washoe County School District due to the proximity of our students to this area and the strong working relationship the UNR College of Education has with this district.

In some circumstances, a student may desire a supervised internship placement in a school outside of the areas mentioned above. Any student who requests such a placement must acquire a written recommendation from their CTL advisor. Further, out of area placements can only be made if an appropriate placement can be found.

Students must teach in their majors during the supervised internship.

APPLICATION FOR THE SUPERVISED INTERNSHIP

Application for the Supervised Internship must be completed during the last semester of course work. Applications for a Supervised Internship are on date set by Office of Field Experience. This form is available in the office of the Director of Field Experiences and/or at a mandatory "First Step" internship orientation meeting held each semester.

Criteria for approval of application for the Supervised Internship

- A. Completion of the bachelor's degree (satisfied upon admission to the program).
- B. Passing scores on the PPST or CBEST or GRE (satisfied upon admission to the program).
- C. Overall GPA of 2.50 or higher for all course work in the professional degree program.
- D. Completion of all pre-licensure course work.
- E. Completion of fingerprinting and background check. An arrest and conviction, depending on the severity of the case, may disqualify an applicant from obtaining a teaching license (satisfied with approval for Nevada substitute teaching license).
- F. Approval of the CTL faculty indicating that in their professional judgment the candidate is qualified to intern.
- G. Approval of the student's advisor including approval of the coursework required for a teaching major.
- H. Completion of the methods course in the student's major with a grade of "B" or better if enrolled in the 400 level course or a grade of "B" or better if enrolled in the 600 level course.
- I. Completion of requirements in U.S. Constitution, Nevada Constitution, and Nevada School Law requirements

- J. Successful completion of Portfolio I. See your CTL advisor and read the Secondary Performance Assessment for further information regarding this portfolio.
- K. Nevada substitute license

LICENSURE

No degree is conferred at the conclusion of the Professional Degree program in Secondary Education. After successfully completing the supervised internship, passing the appropriate Praxis II Examinations, and meeting all other program requirements stated in this manual, a notice of completion will be sent to the Teacher Licensure Office of the Nevada Department of Education. The student must then apply to the Teacher Licensure Office of Nevada State Department of Education which will issue the appropriate teaching credential.

COURSES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Choose one from each section:

EDU 202 Introduction to Secondary Ed (3)

OR

CTL 702 Critical Issues in Secondary Education (3)

EDU 214 Preparing Teachers to use Technology (3)

OR

CEP 610 Info Technology in Education (3)

EPY 330 Educational Psychology (3)

OR

CEP 705 Advanced Human Growth and Development (3)

OR

CEP 636 Cognitive Learning (3)

EL 401 Law and Ethics for Educators (3)

OR

EL 735 Law of Public Education I (3)

OR

Fulfillment of requirement (see page 4)

EDSP 411 Students with Disabilities in the Regular Classroom (3)

OR

EDSP 611 Students with Disabilities in the Regular Classroom (3)

EDSC 321 Secondary Pedagogy I (3)

AND

EDSC 404 Secondary Pedagogy II (3)

OR

CTL 650 General Secondary Teaching Methods (4)

EDSC 46X or 66x (methods course in major field) (3)

OR

EDCT 465/665 Methods course for Career and Technical Education

EDUC 411 Sociocultural Context (3)

OR

CTL 620 Sociocultural Concerns in Ed (3)

CTL 699 Supervised Internship (12 credits) (Mandated seminars during
internship for support with development of the Student Learning
Sample)

The EDSC 66x or EDCT 665 requirement are filled by taking one of the content methods courses as appropriate for the major from the following list:

EDSC 673 or EDSC 473 Teaching Secondary Social Studies

EDSC 643 or EDSC 443 Second Language Instruction in the Secondary School

EDSC 663 or EDSC 463 Teaching Secondary School Science

EDSC 653 or EDSC 453 Teaching Secondary Mathematics

EDCT 665 or EDCT 465 Teaching in Career and Technical Education

* English majors require 2 methods courses-

EDSC 633 or EDSC 433 Teaching Secondary English

and

EDUC 613 or EDUC 413 Teaching Writing in the Schools

*English majors need both CTL 668 and CTL 638 before they can intern.

TEACHER EDUCATION CANDIDATE PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIORS AND DISPOSITIONS
College of Education
University of Nevada, Reno

All teachers are expected to adhere to a professional code of conduct. How teachers interact with children, parents, and their professional colleagues is as important as their knowledge of content and teaching strategies. The College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno has adopted a set of professional behaviors or dispositions that we feel are essential for prospective teachers. These dispositions apply to the university setting, courses, practicum experiences, and the supervised internship and are assessed at different points during the teacher education program. Failure to demonstrate one or more of the dispositions may lead to an individualized plan for improvement and, in extreme cases, could lead to removal from the teacher preparation program. The list of dispositions is not exhaustive. Depending on the situation, there could be other dispositions and professional behaviors that might be relevant to becoming a professional educator that do not appear on the list, but which could be considered in an evaluation of overall readiness to become a teacher. A complete description of the process for assessing Professional Behavior and Disposition is on the back of this form. Candidates are to read and sign this form and attach it to their application for admission to teacher education.

The dispositions and professional behaviors contained in this assessment were adapted with permission from materials from the University of Eastern Michigan

Reflective Practitioner
Professional Ethics The candidate adheres to standards of ethical conduct including academic honesty and confidentiality.
Collaboration The candidate works effectively with professional colleagues and other adults.
Commitment to Teaching The candidate values the profession of teaching. He or she exhibits a positive attitude toward schools, teaching, students, and parents.
Emotional Maturity The candidate responds to frustration and stress appropriately.
Professional Demeanor & Responsibility The candidate is prompt, is not unnecessarily absent, notifies appropriate individuals when absence is necessary, completes assignments on time, and follows through on commitments. The candidate dresses appropriately for the situation and wears appropriate attire for teachers in the school during practicum and internships. The candidate is poised and professional in his or her demeanor. The candidate is flexible and is able to make adjustments to changing student needs and circumstances.
Professional Feedback The candidate is receptive and responsive to professional feedback incorporating suggestions into practice.
Self-Reflection The candidate reflects on and evaluates his or her own behavior and work. He or she is willing to consider multiple perspectives of his or her own performance. The candidate is willing and able to recognize own difficulties or deficiencies and begin to develop potential solutions.

Multicultural and Democracy
Student Focus The candidate recognizes and respects students as valued and unique individuals.
Commitment to Diversity The candidate values multiple aspects of diversity. He or she respects children and adults of varied cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, social classes, abilities, political beliefs, and disabilities.
Love of Learning & Strong Fund of Knowledge
Initiative The candidate is independent and goes beyond minimum expectations.
Problem Solving The candidate is an active and effective problem solver.
Commitment to Learning The candidate is curious and interested in learning more about students and content areas.
Emotional Maturity The candidate responds to frustration and stress appropriately.
Professional Demeanor & Responsibility The candidate is prompt, is not unnecessarily absent, notifies appropriate individuals when absence is necessary, completes assignments on time, and follows through on commitments. The candidate dresses appropriately for the situation and wears appropriate attire for teachers in the school during practicum and internships. The candidate is poised and professional in his or her demeanor. The candidate is flexible and is able to make adjustments to changing student needs and circumstances.
Professional Feedback The candidate is receptive and responsive to professional feedback incorporating suggestions into practice.
Self-Reflection The candidate reflects on and evaluates his or her own behavior and work. He or she is willing to consider multiple perspectives of his or her own performance. The candidate is willing and able to recognize own difficulties or deficiencies and begin to develop potential solutions.

I have read the dispositions and professional behaviors above and I understand they describe a set of expectations for candidates enrolled in teacher education programs in the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno. I further understand that as a teacher education candidate if I do not exhibit these behaviors based on the professional judgment of program faculty, I may be asked to leave the program.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____
Candidate Name (Print): _____

Professional Degree Program Application Form

Name: _____ R#: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Professional Degree

Primary area of interest (e.g., English, Science, Occupational Education, etc.): _____

Check if including: 2 letters of recommendation 1 pg resume 3-5 pg essay on goals
 Signed disposition sheet official copies of transcript (1 set) PPST Score

Name of Preferred Academic Advisor (if known): _____

I have not been convicted of any crime (other than a minor traffic violation).

I have been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation. (This may exclude you from teacher licensure and admission to the teacher education program.) Please attach a description of the crime and dates OR schedule a meeting with the Associate Dean to discuss this.

I also understand that any convictions accrued between now and the time of my student internship may prevent me from obtaining an internship position in Washoe County Schools or other school districts. I certify that all the information that I have provided is true and accurate.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that for all applicants, the CTL Office must have received all application materials. For all applicants this includes the Professional Degree Program Application Form, two letters of recommendation, a one-page resume, and a 3-4 page essay regarding goals/philosophies and signed disposition sheet.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please complete this form and return attached paperwork to:

**Dept. of Curriculum, Teaching, & Learning MS/280
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557**