

Louisiana Teacher Certification Requirements

Upon completion of all academic requirements including graduation, student teaching and passing of the Praxis Examination or N.T.E. equivalent (if taken prior to September 1, 1999), the College of Education will submit all of the student's credentials to the State Department of Education at the request of the student for initial certification. However, a teacher already certified should see his or her employer to add-on a certification.

Praxis Examination Requirements

A minimum score of 174 on the Pre-Professional Skills Test/Reading, 173 Pre-Professional Skills Test/Writing, and 172 on the Pre-Professional Skills Test/Mathematics of the Praxis Examination is required for admission into the Teacher Education Program. All minimum scores are two points higher for entering freshmen to a University of Louisiana System institution effective fall 2004, Nicholls State University is included. All parts of the NTE/PRAXIS required for certification must be passed prior to student teaching. (Information on minimum passing scores available in the Dean's Office) NTE scores taken after September 1, 1999 are not valid for certification in Louisiana. Students who have a composite ACT score of 22 or higher or a combined verbal and quantitative SAT score of 1030 do not have to take Praxis I effective September 2006.

Non-Master's Teacher Certification Program

The Non-Master's Teacher Certification Program is an alternative path to teacher certification in levels for elementary grades (1-5), middle grades (4-8), secondary grades (6-12), or special education (any level). It is a 27-33 student credit hour program that combines undergraduate and graduate course work (21 hours) and a two-semester internship (six credit hours) or one semester of student teaching (twelve semester hours).

Admission to the Non-Master's Teacher Program - Candidates who meet the requirements below will be issued a program prescription, which signifies full admission to the program:

1. Have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
2. Have a Grade Point Average of 2.5 or greater.
3. Successfully pass the Praxis I series (based on the University of Louisiana System requirements - See Praxis Examinations Requirements above) and the respective Praxis II content-area test.

Students who have met all other requirements but only possess a 2.2 grade point average and who have not passed Praxis I are permitted to take undergraduate-level courses in the program. Students who have met all other requirements but who have not passed the Praxis II content test are permitted to take undergraduate level courses in the program.