

PROGRAM AND ORIENTATION GUIDE FOR THOSE STUDENTS BEGINNING ON MAY 1, 2008

Mission Statement

The Teacher Certification Program at Providence College is committed to academic excellence and the lifelong pursuit of knowledge that flows from inquiry and human experience. We promote intellectual, spiritual, and ethical values within the context of the Judeo-Christian tradition. We seek to instill the positive attitudes, content knowledge, and pedagogical skills that will enable our students to be reflective, creative, and flexible teachers. We believe that the basis for successful teaching is grounded in a culture of professionalism, collaboration, diversity, and effective teaching practices. The TCP students have chosen teaching as a second or third career and plan to incorporate their rich, professional experiences to the learning process.

The Program

The Providence College Teacher Certification Program is designed for individuals who wish to pursue a career in teaching at the secondary level. This program is limited to students who have completed or are working toward a degree (at Providence College). Students must have or attain 30 credits or more in the following disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Mathematics, Italian, French, Spanish, History/Social Studies and complete the required Education courses.

In planning their program, students must select courses that satisfy both their professional and academic requirements, and lead to the process of meeting the Rhode Island Professional Teacher Standards. Once they complete the approved program, they will be eligible to receive secondary school teacher certification in Rhode Island. (The State of Rhode Island has reciprocal agreements with over 45 other states to certify teachers). Courses are offered through the School of Continuing Education in the evening during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. If the College does not offer the academic courses that students require, these courses may be taken at other institutions. Completion of the program typically requires three to four semesters, depending on personal circumstances.

By completing the Teacher Certification Program, students will be able to teach employing the Rhode Island Professional Teacher Standards and will be competent in integrating these standards into their teaching practice. To promote this objective, students are required to develop a portfolio that documents their readiness to teach. The portfolio includes, but is not limited to teaching materials such as lesson plans, etc. produced in each professional content course.

How Do I Gain Admission to the Program?

TCP Entrance Requirements

- A Baccalaureate Degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75. SCE students may apply for special permission to enter TCP as they simultaneously complete their undergraduate programs. Students with a cumulative grade point average with less than a 2.75 may be accepted into the program on a probationary basis with approval by the TCP coordinator. They must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25 as a student in the program.
- A major field of study or a minimum of 30 undergraduate credits in one of the certifiable disciplines included in the Teacher Certification Program. They are: Biology, Chemistry, English, Foreign Languages, History/Socials Studies, Mathematics, and Physics
- Completed application for admission to the Teacher Certification Program
- Official copies of undergraduate transcript
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably with one that attests to work and/or interaction with youth.
- Personal interview with TCP Coordinator.
- For those students earning a Baccalaureate Degree through the School of Continuing Education, a Praxis I CBT Test of Reading, Writing and Mathematics with the following minimum scores:

Code	Test	Score
5710	Reading	172
5720	Writing	171
5730	Mathematics	171

Professional Content

In addition to 30 or more hours of academic content in one of the certifiable disciplines included in TCP, students must successfully complete professional content requirements. Required courses are available upon an interview with the coordinator.

Phase I

EDU 207	Principles of Secondary Education (Introductory Course)	3 credits
EDU 201	Educational Psychology	3 credits
EDU 304	The Child with Special Needs in the Regular Classroom	3 credits
EDU 402	Educational Measurement	3 credits
EDU 301	Foundations of Education	3 credits

Phase II

EDU 410	General Methods (by subject)	3 credits
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Portfolio review submitted

All students must fulfill the diversity requirement by completing a course reflecting diversity. A list of courses that satisfies this requirement is available from the TCP Coordinator. Students who do not meet this requirement must attend scheduled diversity seminars.

Praxis II Principles of Teaching and Learning Test must be taken prior to student teaching. Students need to achieve a minimum score of 167 to become state certified.

Praxis II Content Exam must be taken and passed prior to student teaching. Providence College adheres to the Connecticut standards for competency achievement scores.

Phase III

EDU 450	Student Teaching	9 credits
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(12 weeks in a secondary environment)

Final portfolio review.

HOW DO I PROCEED?

Upon admission to the Teacher Certification Program, students complete three phases of the program. The first phase (four courses) lays the groundwork for an introduction into the world of secondary education. Within these courses, students will not only examine educational pedagogy, but also visit diverse schools to acquaint themselves with current educational practices. Students will interview teachers, support personnel, observe and teach classes, attend school committee meetings and other selected activities. Students will reflect on how the knowledge gained by these interview and observations influences their own views on teaching and how this knowledge will be incorporated into each of the phase one courses.

The second phase of the program (two courses) consists of more performance-based activities. During phase two, students will observe diverse classes, work with individual students and teach a lesson or two to the entire class under the supervision of the cooperating teacher and the college supervisor. During the Methods course, the College will assign a cooperating teacher to the students' and they will establish a long-term relationship. *This cooperating teacher will also serve as the student teacher's cooperating teacher.* Providence College assigns school locations for this phase.. At the conclusion of this phase, students will submit their portfolios for a second review. Students will spend a minimum of fifteen hours in the classroom of their future student teaching assignment.

The final phase of the program requires students to complete a twelve-week practicum in student teaching. Students will continue working with their cooperating teacher and will assume the full responsibility of teaching a minimum of three classes. It is a performance-based experience. Student teachers will spend the entire school day preparing lesson plans, teaching, attending meets, shadowing the cooperating teacher and attending weekly seminars at the College. The college will assign a college supervisor who will monitor their final portfolio and begin the formal application process to obtain their teaching certificate.

The Diversity Requirement

As stated in the mission statement, Providence College subscribes to the belief that all future teachers should be aware of the diversity of schools and students must possess the academic background to promote diversity in their teaching. Therefore, students must have coursework that reflects exposure to our diverse world. A list of approved courses is available from the coordinator.

Moving on to Phase Three:

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO STUDENT TEACH

Upon completion of Phase One and Two, teaching candidates enter Phase Three: Student Teaching. Student teaching is a nine-credit, twelve-week course in which Providence College assigns candidates to teach in a secondary school. They are supervised by a College instructor and work with a cooperating teacher to develop the necessary skills to become a professional teacher.

To enter student teaching the following requirements must be met:

- Completion of all coursework including content courses and education courses
- Completion of portfolios from Phase One and Two
- Successful completion of Praxis II Principles of Teaching and Learning Test (Minimum score of 167)
- Completion of Content Praxis Test

Achievement scores are as follows:

Test	Code Number	Minimum Score
* Biology	20235	152
* Chemistry	20245	151
* English	10041	172
* Mathematics	10061	137
* Physics	10265	141
* Social Studies	10081	162
* World Language (<i>Contact the coordinator</i>)		

- Complete student teaching application form (see appendix)
- Attend orientation seminar
- Meet with College supervisor and cooperating teacher