

University of Houston-Downtown: Department of Urban Education

A Guide for Undergraduate Students Seeking Grades 7-12 Texas Teaching Certification

Which Texas secondary (7-12) teacher certifications can I obtain at UHD?

- English-Language Arts-Reading, History, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Science Composite, and Social Studies Composite.

What is the best way for me to get both my Bachelor's Degree and Texas teacher certification?

- Major in your content area (English, History, Mathematics, Biological and Physical Sciences) and take the certification courses within your degree plan.

What are the admission requirements to the teacher certification program?

- A minimum 2.5 overall grade point average (this includes coursework from institutions other than UHD)
- A minimum 2.5 grade point average in your content area (English, History, Mathematics, Biological and Physical Sciences)
- 30 semester credit hours (SCH) of course work
- Meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative
- Be in good academic standing with UHD
- Complete all developmental courses, if required
- Completion of ENG 1301 and 1302 with a "C" or better
- Completion of MATH 1301, or other Core Math course required by your department, with a "C" or better
- Declaration of major in the content area
- At least 15 hours in content area for Math or Science; 12 hours for all other content areas
- Formal application to the teacher education program in TK20

Who will assist me in this process?

- First you will be advised by faculty/staff in the department/college of your major.
- When you are ready to take the Urban Education courses, you must submit an application in TK20 to admit you to the teacher education program. The CPS Academic Success Coordinators must give you permission to register for PD2, PD3, and PD4. However, you may take the free-standing courses (PED 3301 and READ 3309) indicated on the attached course plan before applying to the teacher education program.
- You can talk to a [CPS Academic Success Coordinator](#) at any time.

How many hours do I need to take in Urban Education?

- 33 hours

How will these classes prepare me for teaching?

- You will do 50 hours of field work in public schools in addition to your year-long student teaching residency so that you can:
 - meet teachers in your content area from different schools and districts
 - meet administrators from different schools and districts
 - become familiar with today's high school students and the high school curriculum
 - understand the roles and responsibilities of high school teachers
 - develop your teaching skills by planning and teaching lessons in your content area in your fieldwork classroom
 - work with clinical coaches who will give you constructive feedback about your teaching

What exams are required for Texas teacher certification?*

- You will take two Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) state exams: one in your content area and one in Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (also called PPR).

Certification Area	TExES Content Exam	TExES EC-12 PPR	Exam Cost
7-12 Secondary	English Language Arts & Reading: Test #331 History: Test #233 Life Science: Test #238 Mathematics: Test # 235 Physical Science: Test #237 Science Composite: Test #236 Social Studies Composite: # 232	Test #160	Each exam is \$116.00 Please note that recent legislation limits the total number of test attempts to five.

*Subject to changes from the Texas State Legislature, the Texas State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC), and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

The Course Plan below lists the courses you will need to take.

7-12 Teacher Education Course Sequence	
Free standing courses	
PED 3301 – Introduction to Special Populations	
READ 3309 – Teaching Reading in the Content Areas 4-12	
PD 2 (Field Experience 1)	
PED 3305 – Understanding the Early Childhood through Twelfth Grade Learner	
SED 3312 – Organizing & Managing the Classroom Environment in the Secondary School	
PED 4380 [§] – Field Experience in Urban Public School Classrooms	
PD 3 (Student Teaching 1)	
SED 3302 – Instructional Design to Promote Student Learning	
SED 3307 – Secondary Teacher Roles in Assessment & Profession	
PED 4381 ^{§/3*} – Field Experience in Urban Public School Classrooms	
PD 4 (Student Teaching 2)	
SED 4301* – Student Teaching in the Secondary Classroom	
SED 4302* – Student Teaching in the Secondary Classroom	
READ 4321 – Literacy across the Curriculum 8-12	

[§]requires a minimum 50 hours of fieldwork (6 hours/week) in an assigned school

*Student teaching 1: 2 FULL days in the field first 6-7 weeks/3 FULL days in the field remainder of the semester (7-8 weeks).

*Student teaching 2: 4 FULL days in the field- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday/½ day on Thursdays.