

Certification and Degree Programs

I. Certification programs for those who hold a bachelor's or higher degree

Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI),

<http://www.teachinflorida.com/Preparation/EducatorPreparationInstitutes/tabid/187/Default.aspx>

An EPI is an alternative certification programs offer at many of Florida's colleges and universities. The EPIs are tailored to meet the needs of individuals who hold at least a four year degree and are seeking a second career in teaching. An EPI requires that you complete modules of training, obtain classroom experience, pass the three Florida Certification exams, and is usually completed in approximately eight months. However, the time required will vary by institution and by individual. The Subject Area Exam is required to enter the program, but an institution may also require the General Knowledge Exam prior to entering the program.

The following are Web based EPIs:

Broward College (BCC) (not VA approved) www.broward.edu/epi: (There are 7 courses in the program and the courses can be completed in two semesters or the courses can be completed over a longer period. You may complete the courses out of state, but you must complete the classroom experience component in Florida. For more information - 954-201-8420 or epi@broward.edu.

Lake-Sumter State College (not VA approved) www.lssc.edu: This program starts each semester and is structured as college course. The curriculum includes 7 theory based courses, 2 field experiences, and an e-portfolio of accomplishments (fulfilled as part of the course work), all of which can be completed in 9-10 months. Instruction is provided by faculty who are part of the local school districts as teachers or administrators. Field experiences take place under the guidance of certified teachers in the schools. This program take approximately nine months to complete, but on an individual based the director can approval an accelerated paces if you demonstrate you are capable of handling the workload. Based on your previous training and work, you may also challenge courses. You can complete all components of this program out of state. For more information contact Dr. Joanne Greata at 352-435-5048 or greataj@lssc.edu.

Pasco-Hernando County Community College (VA approved) www.phcc.edu/academics/as/epi/ : This program starts each semester and is structured as college course. There are seven courses and you can enroll in the number of courses you choose each semester. Therefore you can finish in two semesters or you can take one course each semester. For more information, contact Carol Jones at 727-816-3714 or jonesc@phcc.edu.

Polk State College (not VA approved), www.polk.edu/educator-preparation-institute: This program is offered in two formats:

- Hybrid (combination face-to-face and online classes)
- Full distance model (fully online classes)

Hybrid cohort groups meet two or three times a month from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Refer to the schedule link for full course schedule. The full distance groups do not meet face-to-face and all interaction is through the Internet. The course components consist of tasks/assignments/activities/quizzes based on Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs), meaningful Internet discussions related to readings/assignments, educational resources, and news/information. For more information contact Beverly Wollery at 863-292-3642, or bwollery@polk.edu.

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St. Johns River College (not VA approved), www.sjrcc.cc.fl.us/epi.html: This program starts each semester and is structured as college course. There are seven courses and you can enroll in the number of courses you choose each semester. Therefore you can finish in two semesters or you can take one course each semester. Although this is an online program, you cannot complete this program if you are located outside the state of Florida. For more information, contact Dawn Boles, 386-312-4242, DawnBoles@sjrstate.edu.

Teacher Education University (TEU), <http://www.teu.edu/>: **(Not Accepting NEW Students at this time)** Teacher Education University's Educator Preparation Institute is a 21 credit hour program consists of 7 classes specifically designed to prepare individuals for the highly important and ever changing k-12 education environment. Teacher Education University's EPI program was developed with continuing education in mind. This programs starts one the second Tuesday of each month. Once a student completes the EPI and upon acceptance into TEU graduate degree, 9 semester of EPI course work may be transferred into TEU's graduate degree in Instructional Strategies or 6 hours may be transferred into the Educational Leadership degree,. The tuition for the complete program is \$1785. For more information contact TEU at 800-523-1578 or Info@TEU.edu

University of West Florida (UWF) (VA approved): TeacherReady, www.teacherready.org: This is a nine month program which starts three times a year. Once a student completes the TeacherReady program, UWF will allow 12 semester hours to transfer into the university's Comprehensive Mater's Degree. You can complete all components of this program out of state. For more information concerning the TeacherReady program contact Katie Tener at 850-432-7051 or katie.tener@studereducation.com.

Valencia College (VA approved) www.valenciacollege.edu/epi: This program consists of 7 courses (21 semester hours), and courses start every eight weeks. You can complete all components of this program out of state. For more information contact Nick Bekas, 407-582-5473, nebekas@valencia.edu.

American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) (www.abcte.org)
ABCTE Passport to Teaching offers certification programs in nine subjects, Biology, Chemistry, Elementary Education, English, General Science, Mathematics, Physics, and Special Education. ABCTE's programs are approved by Florida and are acceptable in meeting the following Florida certifications, Biology (6-12), Chemistry (6-12), Elementary Education (K-6), English (6-12), Middle Grades General Science, Mathematics (6-12), Physics (6-12), and Exceptional Student Education (K-12) (ESE). The Passport to Teaching programs cost \$975. For more information, contact ABCTE at 877-669-2228.

Reading Endorsement: Reading proficiency is a priority in Florida. An endorsement is a rider to another certification. You cannot hold an endorsement alone. These courses are designed to provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary for teaching reading and understanding reading pedagogy.

UWF: To assist the state in meeting the demand for reading teachers, the University of West Florida has develop five online reading courses that meet the Reading Endorsement requirements, <http://uwf.edu/cops/departments/teacher-education-and-educational-leadership/graduate-programs/reading-endorsement/> and these course will transfer into the university's Comprehensive

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Master's Degree. For additional information contact Dr. Charlotte J. Boling, cboling@uwf.edu, 850.474.2646.

USF: To assist the state in meeting the demand for reading teachers, the University of South Florida has develop five online reading courses that meet the Reading Endorsement requirements, www.usf.edu/innovative-education/programs/graduate-certificates/reading-endorsement-certificate.aspx.

St Leo University: Saint Leo has built a solid reputation in the educational community for its quality programs that produce tomorrow's leaders in the classroom. In 2011, Saint Leo's Education department was named a national finalist for the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education. Become a more effective teacher with specialized skills in reading instruction by qualifying for Florida's Reading Endorsement. <http://online.saintleo.edu/academics/graduate-certificates/reading.aspx>.

ESOL Endorsement: An endorsement is a rider to another certification. You cannot hold an endorsement alone. These courses are designed to provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary for English to students whose first language is not English.

USF: To assist the state in meeting the demand for ESOL teachers, the University of South Florida has develop five online reading courses that meet the ESOL Endorsement requirements www.usf.edu/innovative-education/programs/graduate-certificates/fully-online.aspx.

UWF: To assist the state in meeting the demand for ESOL teachers, the University of West Florida has develop five online reading courses that meet the ESOL Endorsement requirements, <http://uwf.edu/education/esol/index.cfm>
www.fldoe.org/edcert/foreign.asp

Florida District Add-On Programs:

<http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/teachprep/teachprep.asp>

Western Governors University, <http://www.wgu.edu>:

Western Governors University offers a post baccalaureate certification programs which are fully distance learning programs. The programs offered will meet the certification requirements in Florida for Elementary Education (k-6), Middle Grades Mathematics, Mathematics (6-12), Middle Grades General Science, and Social Science (6-12).

Tuition is a flat fee of \$2,490 for a six month term and allows participants to complete as much work as possible during the term. Completion of the programs will qualify an individual for a Utah teaching certificate which can be transferred to Florida. For additional information contact Mike Manning at 801-290-3618 or mmanning@wgu.edu

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Florida State Approved Teacher Education Programs

<http://www.fldoe.org/profdev/teachprep/teachprep.asp>

Western Governors University, <http://www.wgu.edu>:

Western Governors University offers bachelor's and master's degree which are fully distance learning programs. The programs offered will meet the certification requirements in Florida for Elementary Education (k-6), Middle Grades Mathematics, Mathematics (6-12), Middle Grades General Science, and Social Science (6-12).

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Tuition is a flat fee of \$2,490 for a six month term and allows participants to complete as much work as possible during the term. Completion of the programs will qualify an individual for a Utah teaching certificate which can be transferred to Florida. For additional information contact Mike Manning at 801-290-3618 or mmanning@wgu.edu

WGU also offers a M.S. in Educational Leadership that prepares certified and experienced teachers as well as others with significant leadership experience for the position of school principal. The program is designed to be completed in four six-month terms (or two years), and culminates in an integrated practicum and capstone experience. WGU also offers the WGU Aspiring School Principals Scholarships for this degree program. The scholarship is valued up to \$2000 dollars.

St Joseph College of Maine (<http://www.sjcme.edu>)

St Joseph College offers a masters degree in education and various non-education bachelor's degrees. These degrees are self paced distance learning programs. The master's degree has the flexibility of offering many elective courses in education. If the correct elective are chosen, a student can complete all education course requirements needed for Florida's Professional Certificate. For more information concerning the master's degree contact Thomas M. Hancock at 207-893-7995 or thancock@sjcme.edu. For additional information concerning the bachelor's degree, contact David McCall at 800-752-4723 or dmccall@sjcme.edu.

III. Non-Education Degrees. The following institutions work will for those with college credit, military credits and no degree; maximize the use of all credits toward your initial degree.

Charter Oak State College (<http://www.cosc.edu>)

Charter Oak State College (COSC) offers distant learning degrees, or you can take course at other regionally accredited institutions and transfer the credits to COSC. This transfer options requires that you complete only two courses through COSC. COSC will accept up to 87 semester hours of military credits at the lower level. The institution's Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies or Individualized Studies provides the greatest flexibility for degree completion For additional information, contact Bob Fredrick at 860-515-3868 or bfrederick@charteroak.edu

Excelsior College (https://www.excelsior.edu/Excelsior_College/Military_Programs)

Excelsior College offers distant learning degree or will accept course in transfer from other regionally accredited colleges, and does not have a limit the number of transfer credits, including military credits. The institution's Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies provides the greatest flexibility in utilizing all credits toward degree completion. For additional information call 888-647-2388 X135

Thomas Edison State College (<http://www.tesc.edu>)

Thomas Edison State College offers distant learning degrees, and will Thomas Edison State College has one of the most flexible transfer credit policies in the country. If you studied at a regionally accredited institution, , you may transfer up to 80 credits from a community college, up to 120 credits from a four-year institution. If you have studied at more than one institution, we can accept your credits, provided the institutions are regionally accredited. The institution's Liberal Studies or Learner Designed Area of Study (LDAS) provides the greatest flexibility for degree

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completion. For additional information, contact Misty Isak at 609-777-5696 ex-2202 or misak@tesc.edu.

Bellevue University (www.bellevue.edu)

Bellevue University offers a degree completion program which will allow you to complete 45 semester hours in one year. If you need approximately two years of college (60 semester hours) you may be able to complete the need course in a shorter period through Bellevue. For more information contact Willie Woolford, Assistant Director, Military Programs, at willie.woolford@bellevue.edu or 402-210-3686