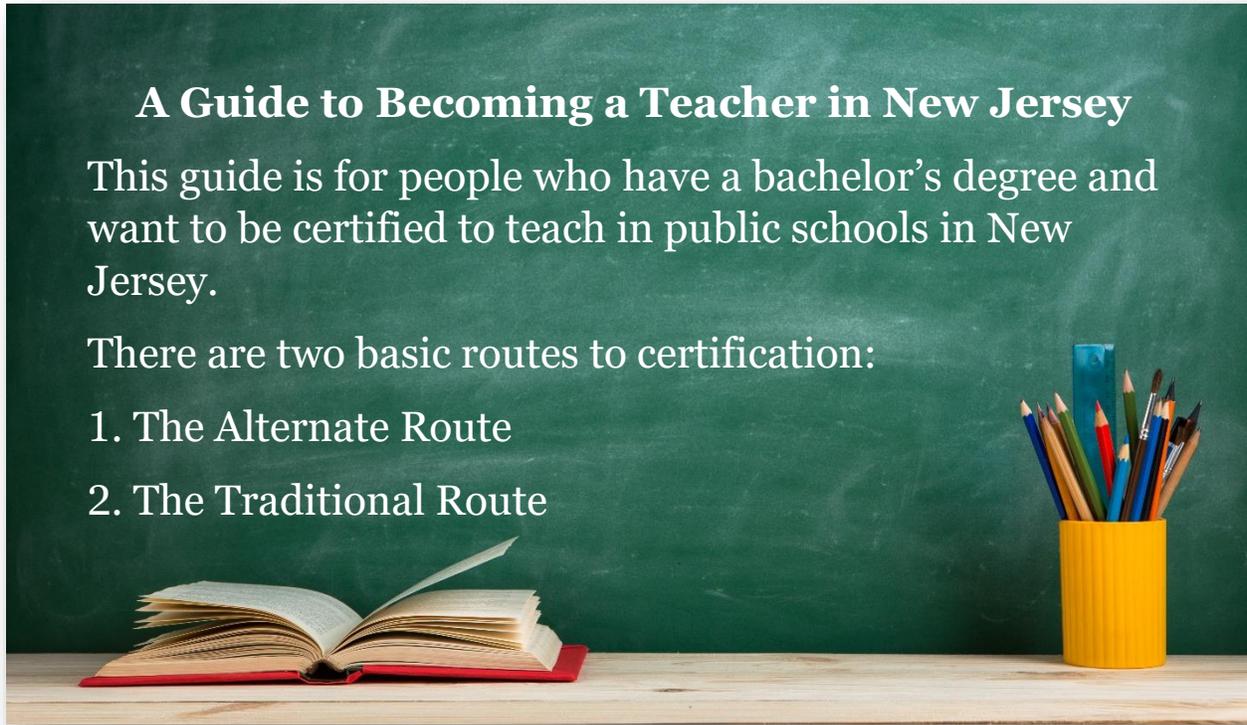


A Guide to Becoming a Teacher in New Jersey

This guide is for people who have a bachelor's degree and want to be certified to teach in public schools in New Jersey.

There are two basic routes to certification:

1. The Alternate Route
2. The Traditional Route



The Alternate Route in NJ

The Alternate Route program is designed for candidates to begin teaching right away and take their education courses during the first two years of teaching.

There are two options in the alternate route:

1. Elementary or Secondary Teaching – [New Pathways to Teaching in NJ](#)

This program can be taken for credit or low-cost non-credit. Candidates can take additional courses for a master's degree after they are certified. All courses are online.

2. Early Childhood – [P-3 Alternate Route Program at NJCU](#)

This program is available for graduate credit only. Candidates can take additional courses for a master's degree after they are certified. All courses are online.

Steps in the Alternate Route Program

1. Apply to the [NJDOE for a Certificate of Eligibility \(CE\)](#). This allows you to obtain a teaching job. Click [here](#) to apply for a CE.
2. Complete a [50-hour Introduction to Teaching Course](#). This allows your school to obtain a Provisional License for you.
3. Begin teaching in the Provisional Teacher Program
4. Begin taking the remaining 350 hours of coursework (either New Pathways or P-3 courses) and edTPA, the state performance assessment
5. Obtain a Standard Certificate to teach in New Jersey when courses are complete, and you have two successful year-end teaching evaluations



Admission Requirements for the Alternate Route Programs:

- ✓ Certificate of Eligibility from the NJDOE
- ✓ Contract Teaching Position (or Head Teacher)
- ✓ GPA of 3.0 or higher for those who graduated after 2016 or 2.75 for those who graduated before Sept. 2016

How to Apply for a Certificate of Eligibility

1. Meet the content requirements. You must have the equivalent of a major in the subject you want to teach or 64 credits in liberal arts for an elementary certificate. Check the requirements on the [NJDOE website](#).
2. Meet the Basic Skills Requirement. The NJDOE requires a passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators tests or an exemption. For more information about test, refer to [Test Requirements for Certification in NJ](#).
3. Pass the Praxis II Subject Assessment test for the area you plan to teach. For the latest test requirements please visit the [Praxis test site](#).
4. Submit your CE application to the New Jersey State Department of Education (NJDOE). You will [apply online](#).
5. Send an official transcript to NJDOE.
6. For more specific information about the CE application process, you may visit the [New Jersey State Department of Education web site](#) or email Licensing.Requests@doe.nj.gov

Alternate Route Coursework

New Pathways Courses (Elementary and Secondary education)

The **New Pathways Program** is equivalent to 24 graduate credits or 400 hours of instruction over four semesters. The 50-hour, Introduction to Teaching class is offered **completely online** at NJCU as well as participating community colleges throughout New Jersey. NJCU offers all **four semesters of New Pathways entirely online**.

Tuition

- **NON-CREDIT:** The total cost is \$2400, which is paid \$100 per credit by the semester:
 - Semester 1 = 7 credits (\$700)
 - Semester 2 = 6 credits (\$600)
 - Semester 3 = 6 credits (\$600)
 - Semester 4 = 5 credits (\$500)
 - **FOR-CREDIT:** Graduate credit is available and may be used towards the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Elementary, Secondary or Special Education. Tuition is subject to change. **The current tuition rates can be found here.** Credits can be used for a Masters Degree, which requires an addition 12 credits – 4 courses.
 - **Apply for New Pathways Alternate Route**
-

P-3 Alternate Route Courses

The P-3 Alternate Route Program consists of 24 graduate credits over four semesters. The 50-hour, Introduction to Teaching class and all other courses are offered online at NJCU

Tuition: All courses are taken for credit and may be used towards the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood Special Education. Tuition is subject to change. **The current tuition rates can be found here.**

- **Apply For the P-3 Alternate Route**



The Traditional Route to Becoming a Teacher in New Jersey

The **Master of Arts in Teaching** programs at NJCU offer the opportunity to be fully certified as a teacher through graduate level courses. This is different than the Alternate Route in the following ways:

- All education courses are taken BEFORE a candidate starts full-time teaching
- 30 credits of required certification courses, including clinical experiences
- Clinical experiences are arranged by NJCU for the candidate
 - One semester of 1.5 days per week in a school with a mentor teacher
 - One semester of full-time internship in a school with a mentor teacher
 - edTPA is completed during clinical practice with mentor teacher
- Courses must be taken for graduate credit and can be spread out over time
- Upon completion of the courses, the candidate receives a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)
- It is more likely the candidate will get a job with the CEAS (as compared to the Alternate Route CE)

Admission Requirements:

- ✓ GPA of 3.0 or higher/ transcripts
- ✓ Passing Scores on Praxis Core exams
- ✓ Application form and letters of recommendation

For secondary teaching, you must have the equivalent of a college major in the subject you wish to teach, or for early childhood and elementary teaching you need 60 credits in liberal arts and sciences. You must pass the Praxis II test in that content area in order to graduate. See more information on the [Praxis test website](#).

Cost

All courses are offered only for graduate credit and may be used towards the Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Early Childhood, Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary, or Secondary Education. Tuition is subject to change. **The current tuition rates can be found here.**

- **[APPLY for Elementary Education MAT](#)**
- **[APPLY for Secondary Education MAT](#)**
- **[APPLY for Early Childhood Education MAT \(P-3\)](#)**
- **[APPLY for Early Childhood and Special Education](#)**

Part II: Provisional Teaching

The CE or CEAS allows you to apply for a teaching position. New Jersey has a three-tiered system for obtaining your standard license:

- 1) CE/CEAS
- 2) Provisional License
- 3) Standard License

CE candidates must complete a minimum amount of 50 hours of pre-professional experience prior to starting teaching (Introduction to Teaching). The school will enroll the new teacher in the **Provisional Teacher Program** (PTP) and register them in the Provisional Licensure Registration Management System (PLRMS) within 60 days of being hired. Once the PTP office reviews the registration in PLRMS a provisional license will be issued. Provisional certificates are valid for two years, expiring July 31 of the second year. They may be renewed by the school district one time for a maximum provisional period of four years. The provisional teacher has four years to complete all standard licensure requirements.



Teachers who are required to complete a dual certification program, such as Teacher of Students with Disabilities or Bilingual Education, are allowed a maximum of two renewals totaling a period of up to six years.

Once a candidate has completed all course work and has two year-end evaluations of effective or higher, they can apply for standard certification. Standard Certification in New Jersey does not expire.

Special Education Teaching in New Jersey

Special education teachers must obtain the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certification. This certificate is added onto the general education standard certificate. Candidates must complete either the Alternate Route or the Traditional Route and complete an additional 21 credits in special education to apply for the TOSD license. Alternate Route candidates may get a CE in special education which allows them to work as a special education teacher while they complete the alternate route and TOSD simultaneously. See the [New Pathways website](#) for more information about this option.

Which Program is Right for Me?

Alternate Route Program – New Pathways to Teacher or P-3

- ✓ I already have a job lined up
- ✓ I have the time and energy to complete graduate level coursework while learning to teach during the first two years
- ✓ I have confidence I can begin teaching right away without coursework in education
- ✓ I already have experience teaching in a private school or as a paraprofessional
- ✓ I need a low-cost way to obtain certification
- ✓ I eventually want to complete a masters degree

Traditional Route Program – MAT in Elementary or Secondary Education

- ✓ I want to learn more about education before I start teaching
- ✓ I want to take my education classes slowly over time
- ✓ I have no experience in teaching and would like clinical practice in a mentor teacher's classroom
- ✓ I'm not ready to begin a teaching job yet
- ✓ I want to eventually complete a masters degree

Contact us

Get started on your journey to becoming a teacher!

New Pathways to Teaching Alternate Route:
newpathways@njcu.edu

P-3 Alternate Route: Dr. Sai Jambunathan
sjambunathan@njcu.edu

MAT Program in Elementary/Secondary: Dr. Erik Morales
emorales2@njcu.edu

NJCU Graduate Admissions:
gradadmissions@njcu.edu



The NJDOE regulations are changed periodically and you should contact the respective person in charge for the most up to date information