You wouldn’t expect a teacher to enter the classroom unprepared? Neither would we!

The Teacher Certification Program at Austin Community College prides itself on delivering quality training for the beginning teacher. Unlike other programs that offer only online courses, our classes are taught by certified, experienced teachers in a classroom environment. In addition, our program does not accept more than fifty people per cohort, allowing for individualized attention and support.

Part of our mission is to serve the community by addressing the high-needs certification areas for the public schools. Currently we only offer certification for:

1. Bilingual Generalist (EC-6 and 4-8)
2. Math /Science (4-8)
3. Special Education (EC-6)

If you are interested in teaching in one of these areas, this is the program of choice for you.

Our program begins Fall 2009. With more than 10 months of specialized training and modeling classroom strategies, you will be eligible to begin as a full-time, paid teaching intern in August 2010.

In addition to the education courses, we also provide support for required state examinations by offering test taking strategies and review sessions.

How are we different from other programs?

We take a limited cohort and provide personal attention throughout your program participation.

We have a high rate of TExES exam pass rates, employment, and retention of teachers in the profession.

*cohort \KOH-hort\, noun:
1. A group or band of people.
2. (Roman Antiquity) A body of about 300 to 600 soldiers.
3. Any group or body of warriors.
The courses we offer provide the foundation for future teachers in the Teacher Certification Program at ACC. Our past students have used the following words and phrases to describe the rigor of our program.

**Challenging—Eye-opening**

**Engaging—Fast-Paced**

**Solid Foundation—Inspiring**

Our instructors are committed to providing students with the highest quality of instructional methods. They explain and model research-based theories behind best practices in the classroom. They are dedicated to the saying, “Do as I do, AND as I say.”

Our courses include:

**EDTC 2000 (Professional Development for TExES)** Provides a survey of competencies for success on TExES Content Exams: EC-6, Math 4-8, Science 4-8 and Math/Science 4-8. Students will identify strategies for test taking and self-study.

**EDTC 3000 (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities)** This course offers a solid foundation in job responsibilities, educational practice, brain theory, curriculum and lesson planning, and classroom communication skills. The goal of this course is to demonstrate learner-centered teaching and reality-based, researched-based training.

**The Summer Institute** Methods courses teach strategies and skills specific to the content and grade that will be taught. Students have multiple opportunities to practice teaching experiences with specific, individualized coaching by experienced teachers. Materials for classroom use are completed during the institute.

**EDTC 3004 (Successful Teaching Practices)** This course occurs during the internship (August-Nov) and assists new teachers with immediate feedback and strategies for the classroom and time with ACC supervisors.

**EDTC 3005, an online course, (Supporting the Teaching Experience)**

As the only online course, this course prepares interns to reflect on their progress as teachers and to document both their success and their students’ progress using data.

All courses are taught by instructors with Master’s degrees and/or equivalent, successful teaching experience.

For more information about our program and how to apply, visit our website.

[www.austincc.edu/teacher](http://www.austincc.edu/teacher)

**Observations in Area Schools**

During the fall and EDTC 3000, participants will observe master teachers in action! This experience leads to a much better understanding of the joy and excitement of teaching along with the challenges and reality of learner-centered curriculum.

Thirty (30) required hours of field-based training may be completed by observation, Pre-Service (volunteer teaching experience), Austin Partners in Education volunteer programs, or Tutors With Vision. Program opportunities are provided.

Candidates say: “School has changed since my days there. Students have so much more to learn today!”

Learn more about statewide testing for students, called the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills by linking to the Texas Education Agency at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us).

**Student comments:**

“I’ve learned that my students do want to pass the TAKS test. They want to be good at math. Students respond well with encouragement and praise.” LS

“My greatest advocating success was a student who came to my class as a non-reader who now reads at a level 4.” DL
How do I become certified in Texas?

Once you are accepted into our program, you need to pass the appropriate Texas TExES certification exams in Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities and your content area (additional exams may be required). Contact the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) at 1-888-863-5880 for updated requirements. Contact Educational Testing Systems at http://www.ets.org.

Can I continue my job during the training?

You may continue working until June when you must take two full weeks to attend your summer training. The expectation is that you will quit your current job in August once you secure a position as a full-time teacher at first year pay!

Does ACC find me a teaching job?

ACC Teacher Certification staff will contact school district employment offices and make every effort to ensure that you find a teaching assignment. However, we do not place or guarantee individuals a job; candidates are responsible for obtaining and keeping their own employment.

How much does it cost to become a full-time teacher through ACC?

The total cost of the program is approximately $5000 (subject to change) with $800 in additional fees paid to other entities.

Knowing that all beginning teachers must be knowledgeable about technology applications, what requirements must I have on my personal computer?

The ACC program offers an online course, so you must have regular access to a personal computer (minimum 64 MB RAM, Pentium-based processor or Mac OS 8.0), printer, and Internet connection with at least 56K speed. We will use Word 98 or higher, and having Microsoft Office capability for PowerPoint application is necessary.

My bachelor’s degree is from another country. What steps must I take to enter a teacher preparation and certification program in Texas?

Transcripts must be documented by an original copy of course-by-course evaluation from a certified transcript evaluation company such as Foreign Credentials Service of America at www.fcsa.biz. All candidates must be proficient in English since Texas students must receive instruction in English. Bilingual candidates must also be proficient in Academic Spanish. State requirements now include passing the TOEFL if your degree is from another country.

Do I have to undergo a criminal background check?

Local districts require a local background check for all observers, new teachers and interns. SBEC requires first-time applicants for an initial credential to be fingerprinted as part of a national criminal background check. Digital fingerprints must be taken as a part of the probationary certificate process.

If you have a criminal record, you must disclose that on the application. You will need to consult an attorney to see about having your record expunged and provide us with proof of your meeting. Decisions will be made on an individual basis.

Which characteristics determine qualities needed for successful teaching?

Flexibility, nurturing, patience, and determination are some of the qualities that help teachers to remain positive and professional. Students are human beings with unique problems and issues. Yet, seeing the light of awareness and joy in a student’s eyes when learning is worth more than gold and jewels...to a teacher.

I know my subject area content, but will I make a good teacher?

Some people are “called” to teach while others are great teachers in ordinary life. If you enjoy children and want to serve the community by training and teaching students, you are headed in the right direction. Our application process and professional staff will assist you in making a life-changing decision.

“The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.”
**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND HOW DO I PAY?**

The credits you earn through ACC’s Center for Teacher Certification are considered by the Federal Government to be “continuing education” units; therefore participants do not qualify for traditional financial aid or student loan programs, even if you fill out and submit a FAFSA form. There are a very limited amount of loan programs available once you are accepted into the program, but there is no guarantee you will qualify to receive one. Please consider the costs and how you will pay before you apply. Be sure to contact the program if you have any questions or concerns regarding costs.

### Course Tuition/Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application fee – nonrefundable</td>
<td>$60 before Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application fee – nonrefundable</td>
<td>$80 Sept. 16-Nov. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDTC 2000</td>
<td>$55 Oct-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDTC 3000</td>
<td>$1600 before Dec. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Institute</td>
<td>$1200 by June 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDTC 3004</td>
<td>$400 by July 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship fee - fall</td>
<td>$750 Sept. 1-Sept. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDTC 3005</td>
<td>$240 Dec. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internship fee – spring</td>
<td>$750 Dec. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,055</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional expenses:
- TExES Exams: $120/exam
- Fingerprint/Background Check: $57
- Probationary Certificate: $52
- Standard Certificate: $77
- Books, website: $200
- Misc fees: $100
  - **Subtotal**: $800

Total: $5,800

Late payments for each fee will cost an additional $25.

*Bilingual Candidates will take a minimum of four exams*

### ACC Installment Plan*

Once accepted into the program, we encourage you to pay for EDTC 3000 using the ACC Installment Plan.

Students are to register by December 15, 2009 for EDTC 3000 (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities) course that runs from January through May.

- Tuition Installment Payment Information sheet
- Contract for Tuition Installment Payments (get from Cashier)
- Spring tuition payments for Teacher Certification EDTC 3000 $1600 tuition are:
  - $410 due by Dec 15, 2009 (1/4 of tuition + $10 administration fee)
  - $400 due by Feb. 12 (1/4 tuition, if late add $20)
  - $400 due by March 12 (¼ of tuition, if late, add $20)
  - $400 due by April 9 (¼ of tuition, if late, add $20)

**$1610 TOTAL (due dates are subject to change)**

*All other classes and fees are due by deadlines with a $25 late fee added for late payment.*

The most important thing for individuals to remember when applying for the WIA program is that WIA is not an entitlement program. Everyone’s situation is different; therefore, one case cannot be judged or compared to another.
Changes in Certification!

- Available for Special Education certification, EC-12 for new teachers. You must have adequate hours in a content area (EC-6 Generalist - look at required hours in the next column), and pass the TExES content exam to be considered “highly qualified,” and take the Summer Institute training. Special Education candidates will take the Special Education EC-12 exam in July.

EC-6 certification will take the place of EC-4.

Mentors Make the Difference!

Once in the classroom, you will be assigned a mentor who will work with you during the school year. Mentor assistance is a major force in keeping newly-hired teachers in the classroom.

Brad and Tina discuss lesson planning

Once accepted into the Teacher Certification program, you will be approved to take a specific exam. You must take that exam on the date specified. If not, your probationary status begins until you take and pass the exam/s. Due to limited exam dates and opportunities, successful completion of tests determines your ability to intern and successfully complete your teaching requirements. You must complete your Standard Certification (May 2011) before adding more certification areas. Check with ETS for current exam charges: http://www.ets.org

REQUIRED TRANSCRIPT HOURS

Math and Science require 24 hours in content. No more than three units of business math or statistics may be applied to the math requirements and/or three units of anthropology may be applied to the science requirements. Math/Science 4-8 certification requires 12 hours in each area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bilingual/ Special Education Generalists</th>
<th>Math*</th>
<th>English &amp; Reading</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Science*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC - 6</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>* You must have an additional six hours in any of the four content areas for a total of 24 hours</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 4 - 8 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 |

1. Content exams – Passing the State TExES content exam is required by “No Child Left Behind” and identifies candidates for a teaching position as “highly qualified” by the school district. After acceptance into our program, students will take the appropriate content exam, with test preparation by our program. EDTC 2000 is free to cohort members and runs in the fall.

2. Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TExES exam for all grade levels should be taken after successful completion of EDTC 3000. All candidates will take test #160, PPR for EC-12, all levels.

Additional tests required for Bilingual Certification:
(To be taken Jan-August)

Bilingual Supplemental—after completion of the Summer Institute TOPT/BTLPT – proof of Spanish academic/oral proficiency

Additional tests if you were are from outside the United States

TOEFL—if bachelor’s degree is from another country, you must pass the TOEFL.

Minimum Skills—THEA—you will take the THEA or another entrance exam

English Assessment—Courses available at ACC, Rio Grande Campus – English oral proficiency/additional classes as needed

Additional test for Special Education required
(To be taken in July): Special Education, EC-12 #161
Online Community

Participants supplement face-to-face classes with online facilitation. During EDTC 3000, technology combines with the Pedagogy to allow participants to create websites and technical products necessary for the classroom. We run all courses on the BlackBoard system. The last class, EDTC 3005, has participants creating a teacher project using data, analysis, and interventions.

Students are responsible for logging in frequently and following directions

“Tutors With Vision” TV

Teachers have great ideas. Teachers with years of experience have visions and valuable expertise. Abel Villarreal, a long-time mathematics instructor with Austin Independent School District, the University of Texas, and Austin Community College began working with the program in 2007. His great ideas and implementation are hidden by his methodical habits and calm demeanor.

Abel answered the call of assisting students in math by collaborating with the Center for Teacher Certification in August. In a short time, he trained potential teacher certification applicants and Associates of Arts in Teaching students and began a program that has really made a difference.

Bedichek 8th grade math students’ scores increased an average 35%, with two students improving to a 92 and 100% on the TAKS.

Crockett students are being helped as well. Stay tuned for Twilight TAKS, intervention for students who cannot graduate without passing the TAKS.
ACC’s program only takes up to 50 in each cohort. As a result, you should apply as soon as possible. We offer Special Education (EC-6), Math, Science, Math/Science certification (4-8) and Bilingual Education (EC-6, 4-8) and accept applicants who meet state requirements on a first come, first reviewed basis upon receipt of your completed package. All needed documents are downloadable from the web; http://www.austincc.edu/teacher.

**Important Dates to Remember**

### 2009

- **Open House Information Session** 6-8 pm  
  June 4, July 7, August 10, and September 9
- **May 16-September 15** Application due - Fee $60  
  Waiting list taken after Sept. 16 due date Fee $80
- **Oct-Nov**  
  EDTC 2000
- **December 1** Orientation for accepted cohort members
- **December 15** EDTC 3000 Fees due - tuition installment plan
- **December 8** Employment Seminar

### 2010

- **Jan 12- May 6**  
  EDTC 3000 6-9 pm Tuesday/Thursday
- **Jan-Mar**  
  Observations in public schools
- **February**  
  TOPT Exam, bilingual cert only
- **January**  
  TExES Content Exam (P/P or CAT)
- **March**  
  TExES Content Makeup, if applicable
- **May**  
  PPR Exam (CAT online)
- **June**  
  Summer Institute - June 8, 10, 14-18, & 21-25
- **August 1**  
  EDTC 3004 fees due
- **August 5-Nov 4**  
  EDTC 3004 6-9 pm
  Aug.5, Aug. 26, Sept.16, Sept 25/all day
  Oct 21, & Nov. 4
- **August 29**  
  Bilingual Supplemental
  Complete any missed/unsucessful exam
- **September 30**  
  Fall Internship fees due
- **December 15**  
  EDTC 3000 fees due  
  Spring Internship fees due

### 2011

- **Jan 15-April 15**  
  EDTC 3005 Online
- **March 15**  
  Apply for standard certificate
- **April 15-May 1**  
  All Mentor documentation completed
- **May 1**  
  Mentor’s documentation due
- **May**  
  Graduation - TBA

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**Requirements:** A bachelor’s degree with 24 hours in various content areas and at least a 2.5 GPA. You must have regular access to a computer and internet. See website for more details or call 512-223-7649.

**Part One: Teacher Certification Process**

1. Applicants must complete Program Application package and educational resume and submit to the CTC office. Be sure to include ACT/SAT/GRE/THEA scores.
2. Applicants must have official transcripts sent to the CTC Program. If your college degree is from a foreign country, contact Federal Credential Service of America at 512.459.8428 and prepare to take the TOEFL.
3. Applicants must have three sealed references mailed directly to the ACC office. Reference forms are available online.
4. In order to process an application, a complete package (everything but college transcripts and recommendation letters) must be received by September 15 ($60). Applications received between September 16 and Nov. 1 will require a late applicants fee of $80. Late applicants will be added to a waiting list.
5. Bilingual applicants must have proof of English and Spanish proficiency. You may take a free evaluation at the ESL lab at the Rio Grande campus. (See Assistance handout for more information.
6. Special Education candidates must have enough content hours in an academic area to qualify for state requirements and the appropriate TExES exam (EC-6).

**Part Two: Interview and Acceptance**

Once we receive your application, we will interview viable candidates at our office at Highland Business Center. As soon as your references and transcripts are in the file, you will be notified of your acceptance or placed on the waiting list.

**THE ORIENTATION SESSION FOR ACCEPTED 2010-2011 APPLICANTS IS DECEMBER 1, 2009.**

**Observations, Online Modules to be Completed by First Day of Class in January.**

After the application has been completed, all eligible applicants will be interviewed. The interview process will be the final factor in determining whether or not the applicant will be accepted to the Teacher Certification/ Program at Austin Community College. If you have any questions, please call 512-223-7649.
Program Highlights

Working with our 6th cohort—bilingual, math and science 4-8, SPED
- 95% pass rate on TExES exams
- 98% certification rate - first two years
- 99% employment rate
- COOL Grant stipends paid to mentors
- Texas Education Agency Accreditation
- Hands-on training
- Online training and resources
- Excellent instructors

ACC’s mission is to provide responsive, quality training and support to beginning teachers in the Austin area and beyond.

Congratulations to ACC Teacher Certification students as “Teachers of Promise” in AISD: Olga Andreeva, Tara Boyer, Carmen Carrillo, Imelda Hopps, Ivonne Rodriguez, Rodrigo Rodriguez, and Jim Johnson. Former TOP candidates include Brenda Aleman, Carmen Benavides, Jennifer Garza, Robin Frueh, Desiree Saylor, Alicia Rodriguez, Lety Suarez, De Anne Arledge, and Crystal Willis.

Teaching is a challenge and success. All it takes is catching the eyes of students who just learned a skill that will allow them to apply new skills to new situations!