



# Career Development Program

## Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Special Education

The Career Development Program is for the areas of **Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or Special Education**.

This program is **not** for general secondary/PK-12 teaching areas.

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### »» Program Requirements

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To be eligible for the program for a provisional certificate, applicants must meet all three of the requirements below.

Prior to Provisional Certification	
<b>College Degree</b>	Bachelor's degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
<b>One Year Experience</b>	One year of experience in a classroom at an accredited school in the area requested (e.g. as a paraprofessional)
<b>Subject Area Test</b>	Must match the experience

To upgrade the provisional certificate to a standard certificate, the requirements below must be completed.

During Provisional Certification	
<b>Professional Education Assessment</b>	<a href="#">APK</a> – available starting June 3rd, 2025 (formerly the PPAT and OPTE)
<b>12 Hours of Professional Education College Courses</b>	One course (3 hours) must address reading instruction
	The other courses are determined by the college education department (must match the certificate area)
<b>One Year Experience Teaching</b>	Successfully teach one year at an accredited school while certified in the new area



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## »» Process Overview

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1. Complete a bachelor's degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
2. Complete one year of experience in a classroom at an accredited school in the area requested
3. Pass the subject area test (must match the experience)
4. Apply for provisional certificate
  - a. Complete a certification or dual background check (if not currently certified in Oklahoma)
  - b. Submit online application in OECS (\$30 fee) and upload D1 Form (parts A and B)
  - c. Send official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended
5. Complete program requirements within three years
  - a. Pass the professional education assessment (APK/PPAT/OPTE)
  - b. Complete 12 semester hours of professional education coursework that matches the new area
  - c. Successfully complete one year of teaching at an accredited school while certified in the new area
6. Apply for standard certificate
  - a. Submit online application in OECS (\$50 fee), D1 Form (all parts), and C1 Form
  - b. Send updated official transcript(s)

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## »» Important Details

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### Experience Definitions

- Early Childhood: Pre-K through 3rd grade, in a regular education classroom
- Elementary Education: 1st through 8th grade (excluding 7th/8th grade math), in a regular education classroom
- Special Education: PK-12 working directly with special education students in a special education setting

### College Coursework

- An Oklahoma college education department with an educator preparation program (EPP) in the certification area must approve all 12 hours required for this program, even if the coursework was completed out-of-state.