

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, and Composite Science

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 the area of specialization
- 30 semester credit hours (SCH) of course work
- Meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative
- Be in good standing with UHD
- Complete all developmental courses, if required
- Completion of ENG 1301 and 1302 with a "C" or better
- Completion of MATH 1301 with a "C" or better
- Declaration of major in the content area
- Formal application to the program

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 your advisor will submit paper work to admit you to the teacher education program. The Urban Education Advisor must give you permission to register for PD1, PD2, and PD3. However, you may take the free standing courses (PED 3301 and READ 3309) indicated on the attached course plan at any time.
- You can talk to an Urban Education advisor 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 a minimum of 120 hours of field work in public schools in addition to your student teaching 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 the high school curriculum
 - become familiar with today's high school students
 - understand the roles and responsibilities of high school teachers
 - develop your teaching skills by:
 - planning and teaching lessons in your content area in your field work classroom
 - working with high school teachers in your content area who will mentor you

- o working with university supervisors 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 TExES PPR).

Certification Area	TExES Content Exam	TExES EC-12 PPR	Exam Cost
7-12 Secondary	English Language Arts & Reading: Test #231 History: Test #238 Life Science: Test 238 Mathematics: Test # 235 Physical Science: Test #237 Science Composite: Test #236	Test #160	Each exam is \$131.00 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 1 (Professional Development 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 2 (Professional Development 2)
SED 3302 – Instructional Design to Promote Student Learning
SED 3307 – Secondary Teacher Roles in Assessment & Profession
PED 4381 [§] – Field Experience in Urban Public School Classrooms (For Math: PED 4381)
PD 3 (Student Teaching)
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 60 hours of fieldwork (6 hours/week) in an assigned school

*student teaching courses – requires 15-week full-time supervised assignment in grades 7-12 (may be one or more grades)