

Frequently Asked Questions Re: Non-Traditional Route to Special Education Certification

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What certification exams are required for the non-traditional route to special education certification?

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- Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET)
- Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (OPTE)
- Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT) for Mild/Moderate or Severe/Profound

*These certification exams can be taken at any time, but must be completed within the three year time frame as part of the requirements for receiving a standard certification.

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How does a person participating in the non-traditional route become highly qualified (HQ)?

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To be highly qualified at the secondary level, a special education teacher must hold at least a provisional certificate, a bachelor's degree, successfully complete the appropriate competency examinations in each core academic area, and meet the renewal requirements of the non-traditional route each year (renewable 2 times) or obtain a standard certificate through the Non-Traditional Special Education Route.

To be highly qualified in early childhood or elementary education, a special education teacher must obtain a standard certificate, hold a bachelor's degree, successfully complete an accredited teacher preparation program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, and successfully complete the appropriate competency examinations in early childhood or elementary education.

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If someone has applied for Alternative Certification can they switch over to the non-traditional route?

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Yes. An individual may switch, but in order to receive standard certification an individual must meet all the requirements of the non-traditional route to special education certification.

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Do individuals need to be Highly Qualified (HQ)?

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If you do not provide instruction in core academic subjects, you do not have to meet the highly qualified teacher requirements. Successful completion of the non-traditional route to special education certification will enable individuals to provide indirect services such as co-teaching, serving in a resource room, or providing supplemental instruction.

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Can an individual hold an Alternative Certificate in addition to participating in the non-traditional route?

A

If an individual has received alternative certification they may participate in the non-traditional route. All components of each certification route must be successfully completed.

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If someone has a traditional standard certification can they become a Special Education teacher?

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Yes. They can take the mild/moderate or severe/profound certification exam.

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Can individuals with a master's degree in Special Education become a special education teacher without participating in the non-traditional route?

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Yes. An individual with a master's degree in Special Education only needs to successfully complete the subject area certification exam for mild/moderate or severe/profound in order to become a Special Education teacher.

