

# GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT PROGRAM

## Required Education

To be eligible for Alternative Placement certification, applicants must hold one of the following:

- **Baccalaureate degree with a retention GPA of 2.5 or higher** from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by the Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE).  
**NOTE:** A master's degree is required for School Counselor, Reading Specialist and Library-Media Specialist.
- **Baccalaureate degree** from an institution whose accreditation is recognized by OSRHE, plus **2 years of qualified work experience** in a field corresponding to the area(s) of certification you intend to seek.
  - “Qualified work experience” means experience that can be documented through standard employment verification procedures, and that is relevant to a certification area or area of specialization as determined by the State Board of Education (OSBE), the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (OEQA), the Department of Career and Technology Education (ODCTE), and/or OSRHE.
- **Terminal Degree** in any field from an institution accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
  - Examples of terminal degrees include doctorates of philosophy or education (PhD, EdD); professional doctorates (MD, DO, JD, DVM, etc.); and masters of fine arts (MFA) or library science (MLIS). Other types of terminal degrees must be verified by OSRHE.

## Competency in a Certification Area

In addition to the education component, applicants must demonstrate competency in a field that corresponds to the area(s) of specialization for the elementary-secondary (grades PK-12), secondary (grades 5-12), or vocational-technical certificates they are seeking. For a list of eligible certification areas please consult the Oklahoma Alternative Placement Program Education Application. Competency may be demonstrated through verifiable documentation of one or more of the following:

- An **academic major** in a field that corresponds to a certification area (or 30+ relevant credit hours on higher education transcript).
- An **academic minor** (or 15+ relevant credit hours) in a field that corresponds to a certification area, plus at least **1 year of qualified work experience or relevant volunteer experience** (volunteer experience may be confirmed by verifiable references).
- At least **3 years of qualified work experience and/or relevant volunteer experience, plus a written recommendation** from an employer or volunteer coordinator.

- **Publication of a relevant article** in a peer-reviewed academic or trade journal.
- Other documentable means of demonstrating competency, subject the approval of the State Department of Education.

**NOTE: Anyone who has enrolled in and subsequently failed required teacher education courses necessary to meet the minimum requirements of a teacher education program is not eligible for the alternative placement program. (Oklahoma Law 70 O. S. Section 6-122.3)**

## **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

Participants in the Alternative Placement program must complete **6 to 18 college credit hours of professional education**, or **90-270 clock hours of professional development** approved by an Oklahoma school district, depending on prior education and experience. Professional education requirements must be completed within 3 years after entering the Alternative Placement program.

**NOTE:** All participants will be required to complete a college credit course addressing **classroom management** and a college credit course addressing general or subject-specific **pedagogical principles**, or approved equivalents.