

Important COVID-19 Certification Updates (as of May 5, 2020)

From the University of Houston College of Education Certification Office

This memo applies to:

- Fall 2019 Teacher Education graduates and
- Spring 2020 Teacher Education soon-to-be graduates

Please read this memo in full for time-sensitive information.

Standard Certification Candidates:

If you have passed your certification exams, the PPR and your content exam(s), you should apply as normal for your standard certification. Don't forget: You must be fingerprinted for your recommendation for certification to go through on the TEA side. As soon as degrees show as conferred in PeopleSoft, which can sometimes take 1-4 weeks after graduation, the UH College of Education Certification Office will recommend you to the state.

- **If you are an undergrad teacher candidate or master's degree teacher candidate, use [this checklist](#).**
- **If you are an alternative certification teacher candidate, use [this checklist](#).**

COVID-19 Probationary Certification Candidates:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Abbott has issued waivers to allow certain candidates who have completed educator preparation program requirements to qualify for **a one-year probationary certificate** so that they may be certified for the 2020-21 school year without meeting testing requirements.

If you have only passed one or none of your certification exams, have passed student teaching and completed all of your other requirements, as evidenced by graduating in fall 2019 or spring 2020, then you qualify for this certification.

1. What does this mean?

If you qualify for this special probationary certification, it is good for one year from the date of issuance. You can apply for and be hired by districts for a teaching position as the teacher of record with this certification. However, you still need to pass the PPR and your content exam(s) and then apply for your standard certification before your probationary certification time is up.

2. What are your next steps for obtaining this special one-year teacher certification now?

- You should apply for the probationary certification now through your TEAL account* AND
- Get fingerprinted by IndentoGo**

***You can apply for your certification now!** Applying for your certification is a separate step from getting fingerprinted.

****In order for you to be issued your initial teacher certification, you must be fingerprinted through IndentoGo**, the fingerprinting vendor for the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). TEA is not waiving fingerprinting as a requirement for certification in the interest of student safety. Review the [DPS Clearinghouse information](#) about fingerprinting and the safety precautions in place.

IMPORTANT! TEA has a defined window for us to recommend you for this special probationary certification before June 15. **The deadline has been extended to July 1.** You must apply and be fingerprinted so we can recommend you before this date. After **July 1 or if the Governor lifts the disaster declaration before that date**, if you have not applied for and been recommended for this certification, TEA considers you no longer eligible for it and you must adhere to the standard certification requirements.

What will be your next steps for obtaining your standard certification before your one-year probationary certification expires?

- Register for and pass the PPR with a score of 240 or better AND
 - Register and pass your content exam(s) with a score of a 240 or better AND
 - Apply for your standard certification through your TEAL account
 - **IMPORTANT FOR EC-6 CORE SUBJECTS, BILINGUAL GENERALIST, OR ELA 4-8 CANDIDATES:** While your probationary certification is good for one year if you do not obtain your standard certification by December 4, 2020 at the latest, you will also be required to take and pass the Science of Teaching Reading certification exam (STR), which goes into effect as of January 1, 2021.
- **If you are an undergrad teacher candidate or master's degree teacher candidate, use [this checklist](#).**
- **If you are an alternative certification teacher candidate, use [this checklist](#).**

If you have any questions about certification, please email uhcert@central.uh.edu.

If you are an advanced certification candidate (principal, superintendent, educational diagnostician, reading specialist, or school counselor) and you have questions please contact your program director and/or the certification office.