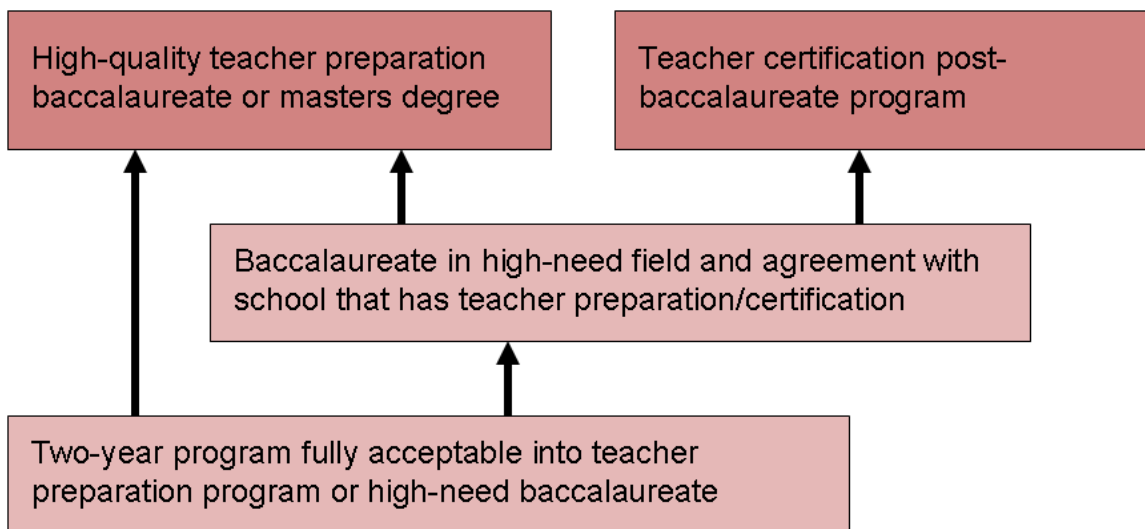


TEACH Grant Program

TEACH Grant-Eligible Institution: Proposed Rules

The TEACH Grant Program is a form of Title IV aid; to award TEACH Grants to its students, an institution must meet all of the normal institutional eligibility criteria that are applicable to other Title IV aid, such as Pell Grant and Stafford Loans. However, a stricter standard of financial responsibility applies: the institution must be financially responsible without benefit of the alternative financial standards otherwise offered. Additional criteria also apply for purposes of the TEACH Grant, relating to the program of study the institution offers. An institution may be eligible to participate in the TEACH Grant Program by virtue of its own teacher preparation program, or by its relationship to a school that has a qualifying teacher preparation program.



To participate in the TEACH Grant Program, an institution must provide **one** of the following:

- A high-quality teacher preparation program at the baccalaureate or masters level;
- A post-baccalaureate program for teacher certification;
- A baccalaureate degree that, in combination with other training or experience, will prepare an individual to teach in a high-need field, and have an agreement with a school described in either of the bullets above; or
- A two-year program that is acceptable for full credit towards a high-quality teacher preparation baccalaureate at an institution described in the first bullet above, or towards a baccalaureate in a high-need field at an institution described in the third bullet above.

Teacher preparation program: A State-approved course of study, the completion of which signifies that an enrollee has met all the State's educational or training requirements for initial certification or licensure to teach in the State's elementary or secondary schools. A teacher preparation program may be a regular program or an alternative route to certification, as defined by the State. For purposes of a TEACH Grant, the program must be provided by an institution of higher education.

A high-quality teacher preparation program:

- Is either—
 - Accredited by a specialized accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary for the accreditation of professional teacher education programs; or
 - Approved by a State and includes extensive pre-service clinical experience, and provides either pedagogical coursework or assistance in the provision of such coursework; and
- Provides supervision and support services to teachers, or assists in the provision of services to teachers, such as—
 - Identifying and making available information on effective teaching skills or strategies;
 - Identifying and making available information on effective practices in the supervision and coaching of novice teachers; and
 - Mentoring focused on developing effective teaching skills and strategies.

Post-baccalaureate program: A program of instruction for individuals who have completed a baccalaureate degree, that—

- Does not lead to a graduate degree;
- Consists of courses required by a State in order for a student to receive a professional certification or licensing credential that is required for employment as a teacher in an elementary school or secondary school in that State, except that it does not include any program of instruction offered by a TEACH Grant-eligible institution that offers a baccalaureate degree in education; and
- Is treated as an undergraduate program of study for Title IV purposes.

High-need field:

- Bilingual education and English language acquisition
- Foreign language
- Mathematics
- Reading specialist
- Science
- Special education
- Another field documented as high-need by the Federal Government, a State government or an LEA, and approved by the Secretary and listed in the Department's annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.html>

Acceptable for full credit: An institution must be able to demonstrate that its two-year program is fully acceptable by at least one four-year institution. Examples of documents institutions might use to demonstrate that the two-year program is acceptable for full credit toward a baccalaureate program would include both formal articulation agreements with four-year institutions and actual student records demonstrating that four-year institutions fully accept transfer credits from the two-year institution.

TEACH-Grant Eligible Program: Proposed Rules

TEACH Grant-eligible program: An eligible program as defined in 34 CFR 668.8 that is a program of study that prepares an individual to teach in a high-need field and that leads to a baccalaureate or master's degree, or is a post-baccalaureate program of study. A two-year program of study that is acceptable for full credit toward a baccalaureate degree is considered to be a program of study that leads to a baccalaureate degree.

- “High-need field” and “post-baccalaureate program of study” are defined in the proposed rules; see the definitions under *TEACH Grant-Eligible Institution*
- Institutions are responsible for identifying which of their programs are TEACH grant-eligible
- A baccalaureate program that does not include a teacher preparation component is eligible for TEACH Grant only if it provides a major in a high-need field

Student Eligibility: Proposed Rules

Eligibility Criterion		STUDENT	CURRENT TEACHER	FORMER TEACHER	RETIREE
1	Meet general Title IV student eligibility criteria	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	File FAFSA	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Sign Service Agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Enroll in TEACH Grant-eligible program	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Score above 75th percentile on any admissions test or maintain 3.25 GPA (on 4.0 scale)	✓			
6	Be completing coursework and other requirements necessary to begin a career in teaching, or plan to complete such coursework and requirements prior to graduating	✓			
7	Be pursuing master's degree or alternative certification through a master's program		✓		✓
8	Be pursuing alternative certification through a master's program			✓	
Educational Level of TEACH Grant-Eligible Program					
Undergraduate (first baccalaureate)		✓			
Post-baccalaureate (first program)		✓			
Master's		✓	✓		✓
Alternative certification imbedded in a master's degree program			✓	✓	✓

Notes: The categories of eligible student are not mutually exclusive. An individual could qualify under "Student" based on a 3.25 GPA, then drop below that GPA but still qualify under one of the other categories, depending on the educational level and eligibility of his or her program of study. TEACH Grants may be paid for undergraduate study towards a student's *first* baccalaureate degree or *first* post-baccalaureate teacher preparation program.

Proposed Definition

686.2, *Retiree*: An individual who has decided to change his or her occupation for any reason and who has expertise, as determined by the institution, in a high-need field.

Notes for Eligibility Criteria	
1	General student eligibility criteria are regulated under 34 CFR 668, subpart C.
2	Although the grant is non-need-based, the FAFSA is required to confirm student eligibility criteria through data base matches.
3	Service agreements will be signed electronically via a Department of Education (ED) Web site. The agreements are designed, collected, and maintained by ED.
4	Institutions determine which of their programs are TEACH Grant-eligible based on regulatory parameters. Since the TEACH Grant is a Title IV program, the eligibility criteria in 668.8 apply as well as the TEACH-specific criteria.
5	Scores on placement tests are not acceptable to meet this requirement. A student who scores above the 75th percentile on at least one battery of a nationally-normed standardized admission test at any postsecondary level is eligible throughout his or her educational endeavors. Failing such a score, the student must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale (or a numeric equivalent) through the most recent payment period to be eligible for each TEACH Grant disbursement. For the first year of his or her undergraduate program, the high school cumulative GPA is used, or the GPA earned in the program of study once a GPA is established. For the first payment period of a graduate program, the student's undergraduate GPA is used. The proposed rule also specifies a method of calculating the GPA for transfer students, similar to that used in the National SMART Grant Program.
6	This requirement does not mean that a student must acquire teacher certification by the end of his or her undergraduate program of study. The requirements of institutional and program eligibility establish several paths for a student to complete his or her preparation to teach. The preamble to the NPRM clarifies: "For example, a student may graduate with an undergraduate degree, but must complete a post-baccalaureate program or other coursework before the student can begin a career in teaching. Thus, where the proposed regulations refer to completion of coursework and other requirements before graduating, the Secretary would interpret the term 'graduating' to mean the point at which the student has completed all the coursework and other requirements necessary to prepare that student to begin a career in teaching."
7 & 8	Alternative certification programs must be offered by an eligible institution to be eligible for TEACH Grants, and must be part of a graduate program.