

Applying for CT certification if you attended college outside the US

Teachers who completed any of their college or university education outside the United States have some additional steps to take in order to obtain CT teaching certification, and must meet the following requirements:

1. Your education credentials from an international university must go through a course by course analysis to determine whether or not the course content, and credit awarded, is the equivalent of that given by a US university. The State Department of Education (SDE) will accept an official evaluation only from approved agencies performing this service. Click here to get more information from the SDE about a [foreign credentials review](#).
2. Transcripts from college or university coursework taken in the US must be sent directly to the SDE by the university.
3. All teachers in CT must have a degree with a major in the area in which they wish to become certified, or 30 credit hours in that area.
4. State law also requires that any candidate for certification has completed some sort of state-approved teacher preparation program, which includes a variety of education courses and student teaching (this may or may not have been part of a program at a university outside the US).
5. All teachers now entering the profession in CT are required to take and pass the Praxis I PPST exams (basic reading, writing, and math skills exams), and the selected Praxis II exams for their content area (or, in your case, elementary). You can find additional information about the exams by going to the ETS web site: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/> . Click on 'state requirements' under the main banner, and navigate your way through to find the requirements for CT.
6. All teachers must also have taken and passed a course in US history, and a course in special education.
7. An application for certification must be completed and can be obtained from the CT State Department of Education in one of 2 ways: (1) by using their automated answering system, following the recorded message, and leaving your name and address for them to send it to you. The phone number is 860-713-6969; (2) by going to the SDE web site

and downloading the form you'll need. You can use this link to do that:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&q=321402> . Scroll down to form **ED 170** (general certification application).

When you apply for a certificate for the first time, you should begin a 'certification file,' in which you keep all correspondence and records regarding your certificate. It is recommended that you make photocopies of any application, letter, or other record you submit to the SDE, and keep copies of all correspondence you receive from them.

Keeping complete and accurate records can help insure that your certificate is always accurate and valid.