

Applying for CT certification if you are from outside CT and

- ❑ have not completed a teacher preparation program at an approved university or college,
- ❑ have never taught in an approved non-public school, or a public school,
- ❑ have a bachelor's degree.

Obtaining certification in CT requires several things, outlined below....

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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. You will be eligible to apply for a waiver of the Praxis I exams if your SAT scores were above a combined score of 1100 (if you took the SATs after July 1, 1995) or 1000 (if you took the SATs prior to July 1, 1995). To apply for a waiver, download form **ED 192**, the 'Application for CT Academic Assessment Waiver.' You must also have your SAT score report sent directly to the SDE, which can be done by [contacting Educational Testing Service](#).
4. All teachers must also have taken and passed a course in US history, and a course in special education.
5. 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).

Before you are able to apply for certification, however, you must find out what kinds of certification programs are available to you. There are 2 basic options if you are living

outside CT: (1) go through a teacher-prep program at a college or university (several of the universities in CT have "certification-only" programs); (2) enroll in a Master's program in a university that enables you to become certified as part of your Master's program. If you are planning to move to Connecticut, another option is to enroll in the State Dept. of Higher Education's Alternate Route to Certification, a full-time, 8-week summer course, or a part-time 6-month course (Friday evenings and all day Saturday) that enables you to receive a 'probationary' certificate (which can become a regular initial teaching certificate after completion of 90 days of successful teaching). If you're interested in checking out these Connecticut certification options via the web, there are several links that will be helpful to you:

<http://www.ctdhe.org/cgi-bin/webplus.exe?script=/db2/school.wml> -- This is the link to a listing of all colleges and universities in CT. Most of the university web sites are fairly easy to navigate through, and have at least basic information about their certification-only programs. There are more schools in CT that are offering masters-and-certification programs, which many people like because they give much more experience in schools as part of the program. Since CT teachers are required to eventually earn either 30 credits beyond the bachelor's degree, or a master's degree, people who go through these programs fulfill both requirements at once.

<http://www.ctdhe.org/ARC/default.htm> -- This is the link to the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program. It lays out the general requirements, deadlines for application, etc. This program is very competitive and offers certification in only specific areas.

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2613&Q=321230> -- This is the page for the State Dept. of Ed Certification Bureau. It's easy to navigate through, and you can find all kinds of information about certification, including the regulations that govern certification, booklets with information, etc.

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.