



Training via E-Learning: An Alternative Certification Hybrid (T.E.A.C.H.)

Austin, Texas

Secondary Preparation Program



Secondary preparation program structure:

Before internship: 300 hours of coursework	Notable features of internship: Program supervisor conducts at least eight 45-minute observations Program supervisors enter classroom twice each week to observe Candidate also receives mentor support from one campus mentor and one retired teacher mentor. Three-year program supervisor support is offered, extending two years beyond internship
30 hours of field work	

Teacher candidate enrollment: **42** (2011-2012)
 Teacher production: **18** (2011-2012)
 (2013 Title II Reports)

Secondary Preparation Program Grade
D

Score Breakdown

Alt Cert Std A: Selection Criteria ●

By employing sufficiently high but pragmatic admissions standards, the program is designed to attract talented individuals who otherwise would not choose to teach.

Selection criteria for admission into the program only partly satisfy this standard. Although the average GPA of the most recently admitted candidate cohort is above 3.3, the program's requirement of an interview does not substitute for a requirement of an audition, which would better assess the non-academic characteristics important for teaching.

Alt Cert Std B: Subject Area Expertise ○

Before teacher candidates have full-fledged teaching responsibilities, the program ensures their content mastery in every subject for which they could be responsible for instruction.

Without a thorough grasp of the subject they will teach—typically acquired by majoring in an academic discipline—secondary teachers will be unable to provide the sophisticated level of instruction that their students need to progress. All children deserve to have teachers who are well versed in each and every one of the subjects they teach, regardless of teacher shortages that are used to justify prepa-

LEGEND: ● Meets standard; ● Nearly meets standard; ● Partly meets standard; ● Meets a small part of standard; ●* Meets a small part of standard, score imputed; ○ Does not meet standard; ○* Does not meet standard, score imputed; NA Not applicable.

ration short-cuts. Alternative certification programs should make sure, by either reviewing transcripts or requiring that candidates pass rigorous assessments, that before secondary candidates enter the classroom as the teachers of record they know the subjects they will teach.

The program does not meet this standard because it allows teacher candidates to enter their classrooms as the teachers of record without the transcript review or testing that would ensure that the candidates have sufficient content mastery.

Alt Cert Std C: Supervised Practice

The program provides adequate supervised classroom instruction practice opportunities.



The fundamental premise of alternative certification is that full-time, independent teaching can serve as a clinical training ground for teacher candidates. To the extent that this is even possible, it requires a co-teaching arrangement with a highly qualified mentor teacher, or—barring that—as close to a co-teaching arrangement as can be offered through intense support and feedback from the alternative certification program. In the latter case, the program's support with five or more formal observations in the beginning months of teaching must be supplemented by the support of a school-based colleague who has been selected to be a mentor on the basis of demonstrated mentoring capabilities as well as effective instruction as measured by student performance.

The program partly satisfies the standard because although the candidate is provided with considerable mentor support coupled with a relatively generous number of formal observations by a program supervisor over the course of the year (in this case, eight), the candidate

- is not provided a true co-teaching arrangement; and
- is provided with the support of a teacher-colleague who is a capable mentor (or has had mentorship training), but who is not required to be an effective instructor.

Alt Cert Std D: Evidence of Effectiveness

NA

The program's graduates have a positive impact on student learning.

A score on this standard is not applicable because evaluation depends on reports on the relative effectiveness of the program's graduates from a teacher preparation student performance data model; either 1) the program's state does not publish any such report, 2) the state publishes such a report, but the results do not pertain specifically to only this secondary program, or 3) the state publishes such a report, but the results for this program are not consistent for two consecutive years.