



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
Programs in Teaching, Learning, and Technology

**TEACHER INTERN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM\***

The Teacher Intern Certificate is a valid professional certificate that entitles the holder to hold a full-time professional teaching position, with all rights and privileges of a temporary professional employee as defined by Pennsylvania state law. The current regulation states that a Teacher Intern Certificate qualifies the holder to hold a full-time elementary or secondary school teaching position in the certification endorsement area.

The minimum requirements for Lehigh University to issue a Teacher Intern Certificate includes completing 12 hours of academic course work in one of Lehigh's teaching certification programs, a job offer **in writing** from a Pennsylvania school district, and passing of the PRAXIS exams.

The Teacher Intern Certificate is issued for a period not to exceed **three calendar years** and qualifies the holder to perform all the duties, functions and responsibilities of the certification area(s) for which it is endorsed. In the meantime, the certificate holder must be continuing to pursue his/her full certification.

The Teacher Intern Certificate becomes valid the month of issuance and lapses 36 months later whether or not the holder has been continuously employed on the Intern Certificate by a public school. **This certificate can only be issued once, and under no circumstances can this certificate be renewed.** The Teacher Intern Certificate is valid for general education areas regularly endorsed on instructional certificates and remains valid only while the holder (a) renders **satisfactory service** to the employing school entity, and (b) **maintains continuous enrollment** and makes satisfactory progress within an approved teacher intern program leading to issuance of the Instructional I certificate.

Additional information about The Teacher Intern Certificate is available on the PDE Web site at:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/other\\_routes\\_to\\_certification/8818/intern\\_certification/506789](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/other_routes_to_certification/8818/intern_certification/506789)

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

It is important for individuals considering teaching as a career to be aware of the fairly rigorous academic, health, and personal character requirements for teacher certification that are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for teacher candidates statewide:

- An overall GPA of at least 3.0 (both graduate and undergraduate).
- Passing scores on the PRAXIS (NTE) Tests (Level I and Intern certificates) in all subject areas prior to student teaching.
- Submission upon matriculation and yearly renewal of all of the following clearances:
  - Mantoux Tuberculosis Screening or chest X-ray
  - FBI Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114)
  - Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Records Check (Act 34)
  - Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)

Before the teacher candidate will be placed in the schools as part of his/her certification or degree program, the Mantoux or chest X-ray must be **negative** and all 3 required criminal background checks must indicate that **"no record exists."** If anything other than "negative" or "no record exists" is reported on a student's documentation, the exact nature of the reported health or criminal record issue will be reviewed by the OTC Director in accordance with the *College of Education Policy on Clearances*. Clearances documentation must be presented for verification and copying to the Coordinator of the Office of Teacher Certification (Iacocca A108) upon matriculation into a teacher education academic program and must be renewed yearly while pursuing your studies. Additional information about our clearances policy can be found on our website at <http://www.lehigh.edu/education/tlt/clearances.html>

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has issued new certification guidelines for initial teacher certification that divide elementary (K6) certification into two separate certifications: Pre-kindergarten to 4th grade and 4th grade to 8th grade. Lehigh is in the process of revising its current elementary teacher preparation program to address the requirements of these new certifications and will, in future, only offer the PreK-4th grade certification at the elementary level. In addition, all preparation programs for new secondary (7-12th grade) teachers have new requirements for addressing the needs of students with diagnosed learning disabilities and students who are learning the English language. These requirements will take effect for all students who begin coursework toward teacher certification after December 31, 2010. Students already enrolled in either our current K-6 teacher-preparation program or our current secondary teacher-preparation program must complete their programs of study by August 31, 2013. Students who would not be able to complete their teacher certification eligibility programs by that date will need to complete one of the new PDE-approved teacher certification eligibility programs. (PreK-4 or 7-12)

## **Lehigh University's College of Education Programs in Teaching, Learning, and Technology**

The College of Education is a nationally ranked graduate school at Lehigh University, a private institution located in the Lehigh Valley between Philadelphia and New York City. Lehigh actively recruits a diverse student body and welcomes inquiries from all interested students. For more information about our Teaching, Learning, and Technology programs, and how to apply contact:

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