

Alternative Route to Certification for School Employees – ARCSE

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



NATIONALLY RANKED –SPU is the only private university in the Pacific Northwest to make *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 “Best National Universities” list.

Program Description

The School of Education at Seattle Pacific University has been offering an alternative route to teacher certification (ARC) program since 2002. Over the last 15 years, nearly 700 teachers have been prepared for work in classrooms across Washington through the ARC program. ARC graduates are developed through a combination of student teaching experience (internship) and coursework. However, the defining characteristic of SPU’s ARC teacher preparation model is 180 days of student teaching.

The Alternative Route to Teacher Certification for School Employees (ARCSE) program builds on comprehensive school-based experience and coursework, with special emphasis on recruiting current public school employees from partner districts.

Candidates eligible to apply to the ARCSE program will be employed within partner districts as paraeducators, instructional assistants, or current teachers employed through limited certification (Conditional Teacher, Emergency Teacher, and Emergency Substitute Teacher). The goal of the ARCSE program is to prepare effective teachers for life-long careers as educators in their local schools.

Refer Eligible Candidates

- Currently employed within a partner district or ESD
- Already earned a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- Passage of the West-B test or its equivalent and the corresponding content knowledge WEST-E/NES
- Able to secure two letters of recommendation: one from an administrator and another from a teacher

Grow Your Own Teachers

- Identify local talent to support toward becoming effective teachers
 - Priority areas include special education, math, science, and rural areas for elementary
- Retain your talent-- candidates can earn a [Residency Certificate](#) while remaining employed in your district. Candidates use their school employment simultaneously while earning their internship credits.
 - Route 2—support classified staff to become certificated teachers. We have a specially focused certificate-only program for special education teachers who are in a paraeducator or instructional assistant role.
 - Route 4—hire teachers on a limited certificate to be a teacher of record in a hard-to-fill position while they are in our preparation program
- Local talent is more likely to remain in the area compared with recruiting outside of your geographic area
- Finishing in one year — the program begins summer and ends spring or following summer and candidates will have Residency Certificate in autumn
- In addition to your own district development, candidates will be assigned a skilled mentor that your district identifies and will also be assigned an SPU field supervisor
- This model of “Grow Your Own” aligns with Professional Educator Standards Board priorities for recruiting and retaining Washington teachers



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“My instructors and fellow students helped me to build on my strengths and correct my teaching weaknesses. What I learned about teaching and myself made the hard work, time, and sacrifice well worth the effort.”

Tom Van Duzer, Special Education Teacher Bothell,
Washington

Cost

ARCSE is SPU’s most affordable option for attaining teacher certification. Candidates should expect to enroll in both 6000-level core classes and 5000-level Teacher Development Plan classes, which feature lower tuition rates. In addition, there is potential for program and conditional scholarship to further reduce the cost. For students who earn grant-funded support, the total expected cost is less than \$8,900.

*Candidates may be required to take additional content-area courses prior to enrolling in the program depending on their undergraduate major and chosen endorsement(s).



Successes and Testimonials

- In the 2016-17 ARCSE cohort, 100% of candidates who wanted a teaching job the following fall were hired.

Previous students’ comments:

- “Excellent professors and a powerful cohort of fellow students, who like me, already had experience in education.”
- “Very caring staff willing to bend over backwards to answer questions and help students find/get what they need.”
- “Flexibility, ability to complete online, preparation for TPEP, excellent instructors.”

Features

- May be completed entirely online
- Online video observations/coaching
- Potential to count life experience towards subject-matter competencies
- Mentor training and development (both online and in-person opportunities)
- K-12 experienced educators positioned along the I-5 corridor as SPU supervisors that provide tailored support and guidance
- Full year, 180-day internship, that allows candidates to intern from August in-service days through the last day of school
- Candidates are evaluated on State 8 criteria throughout the year, preparing them for district TPEP evaluations

Calendar and Online Format

The ARCSE program starts and ends every year in June, covering four quarters unless a candidate is opting for a master’s degree, which entails an additional summer quarter. Classes are offered entirely online to provide great flexibility and accessibility across the state. Local development opportunities may be offered on site as substitution options. The program adheres to quarter dates and does not offer rolling admission.

APPLICATION DEADLINE — February 1st

For general information about the teacher certification process in the state of Washington visit k12.wa.us.

QUESTIONS?

For complete information about the ARCSE program, go to spuarc.org. For questions about the program, contact Program Coordinator Kirsten Koetje at koetjek@spu.edu. For questions regarding admission requirements, contact Graduate Admissions at 206-281-2091 or 1-800-601-0603.