

TEACH 2016: Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL:

When does the TEACH Program start?

The TEACH Program begins June 1, 2016. Candidates can only start the program with the Summer session. You **cannot** start the program in the Fall or Spring.

How does the TEACH Program work?

The TEACH Program is a 12-month program. The Summer session (9-12 hours depending on Certification area) begins June 1 and continues for four/five weeks, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The majority of this time is spent at Louisiana College for lectures. Days will be assigned for completing assignments outside of class. At the end of these four/five weeks and verification of full-time teacher position, you are eligible for a Practitioner License (PL1).

The Fall session (6 hours) begins in August. You are required to be teaching full-time in a state approved school. You are observed by an assigned mentor from Louisiana College throughout the semester. You also attend Saturday Seminar Classes once a month. (The dates of Saturday classes are announced at the end of the Summer session.)

The Spring session (6-9 hours) begins in January and follows the same format as the Fall session. At the end of the three semesters, you are eligible to apply for your Level One Teaching Certificate if you have successfully completed all coursework, passed the required PRAXIS exams, paid all tuition and fees.

How many hours of coursework are required?

The Louisiana State Department of Education sets the number of course credits required for Alternate Certification. The following certification areas require the indicated number of course hours:

Certification Area	Total Credit Hours Required
Early Childhood (Grades PK-3)	24-27 hours*
Elementary (Grades 1-5)	21-24 hours**
Middle School (Grades 4-8)	21 hours
Secondary (Grades 6-12)	21 hours
Special Education Mild/Mod (Grades 1-5, 4-8, or 6-12)	24-27 hours*
All-Level (K-12)	21 hours

*Certification in Early Childhood or Special Education requires that the candidate either complete one additional 3 hour course in reading to equal the total of 27 credit hours OR take the PRAXIS Teaching Reading Exam (0204 or 5204) OR transfer approved reading course previously completed. Early Childhood and Special Education also require 12 credit hours in the summer, no exceptions, that will require attending class for a total of seven weeks in the summer.

**Certification in Elementary requires that the candidate either complete one additional 3 hour course in reading to equal the total of 24 credit hours OR take the PRAXIS Teaching Reading Exam (0204 or 5204).

What are the dates of the TEACH Program?

The 2016 TEACH Program will begin on Monday, June 1, and end on approximately July 1 or July 8, depending on your area of certification. These dates are subject to change. Exact calendar dates will be announced on the first day of class.

Dates for the Fall and Spring semesters are announced before the end of the summer session. They will include one Saturday per month for a total of five regular class meetings per semester.

Is coursework available through correspondence or internet classes?

Courses are not available through correspondence or the internet. All lectures and seminar classes are held in Pineville on the Louisiana College Campus unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Some components of the courses may be assigned for completion away from campus and submitted via the MyLACollege Portal or email.

Does the TEACH Program serve my parish?

The Louisiana College TEACH Program serves all areas of the state.

EMPLOYMENT:

Do I have to have a teaching position to start the TEACH Program?

No. You can enroll in the Summer Session without having secured a teaching position for the upcoming school year. However, you are required to have a position by the time school starts in August in order to register for fall classes. If you do not have a position by the first Fall Saturday Seminar class in August, you cannot register for the Fall Semester.

Can I teach at a private school?

Yes. If the private school is a state accredited school, it is acceptable for you to teach there for your internship.

Does my school qualify as an approved school?

All public schools are approved, state accredited schools. If you have a question regarding a private school and its approval status with the state, please the private school for that information.

TUITION:

How much does the TEACH Program cost?

The estimated tuition cost of the TEACH 2016 Program is as follows:

*Summer Charges: **

Tuition (\$325 per semester hour) 9-12 hrs = \$2925-\$3900

*Fall Charges: **

Tuition (estimated at \$350 per semester hour) 6 hrs = \$2100

*Spring Charges: **

Tuition (estimated at \$350 per semester hour) 6-9 hrs = \$2100-\$3150

*These amounts are subject to change with each new academic year. Please allow for the cost of textbooks (approximately \$100) and housing costs if you will be staying on campus during the summer session (housing costs are approximately \$100 per week, with first two weeks payment due at registration). There is also a meal plan available upon request.

When is tuition due?

Tuition is due at registration, no exceptions. You must have a Tuition Pay payment plan, TEACH Grant, student loan, tuition exemption or tuition reimbursement, or other payment options in place in advance.

Am I eligible for financial aid?

You may be eligible for various forms of financial aid. You will need to contact the Louisiana College Financial Aid Office for more information at 318-487-7386 or go online to <http://www.lacollege.edu/finances>.

The summer semester is the last semester of the 2015-2016 Academic Year. The Financial Aid Office needs each student interested in a student loan or TEACH Grant to complete the **2015-2016 FAFSA** and complete the **Master's Summer Data Form**. This may be obtained in the Financial Aid Office or online at www.lacollege.edu, *Finances* tab and then select *Financial Aid Form Bank*. You may email the Data Form to pam.skluzacek@lacollege.edu.

PLEASE NOTE: Priority deadline for Fall/Spring 2016-2017 financial aid requests is July 1, 2016. For Fall/Spring financial aid, please complete 2016-2017 FAFSA, Master's Data Form and TEACH Grant documents online ASAP. If you have questions, please email pam.skluzacek@lacollege.edu or financial_aid@lacollege.edu.

Can I set up a Payment Plan with Louisiana College?

Louisiana College uses an outside source called Tuition Pay for payment plans. Candidates can sign up for Tuition Pay at the following website: <https://tuitionpay.salliemae.com/tuitionpay/enroll/PlanSelection.aspx> or call 800-635-0120 by *May Ist.* To cover Summer tuition spread over three months, contact Business Office *May Ist.* For Fall and Spring tuition that is spread out over 8 months, contact Business Office; you must sign up for this option by *August Ist.* Contact Melissa Brouillette in the business office for more information at (318) 487-7693 or melissa.brouillette@lacollege.edu.

How can I receive Tuition Exemption or Tuition Reimbursement?

You will need to check with your parish school board to obtain the proper paperwork.

How much is the Tuition Exemption or Tuition Reimbursement?

You will need to check with your respective parish school board.

APPLICATION:

How do I apply to the TEACH Program?

The TEACH/MAT Application is available at the following link:

<http://www.lacollege.edu/academics/departments/department-of-teacher-education/resources>. You can print it, fill it out, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the instruction page of the application.

I don't have my immunization records. What do I do with the Proof of Immunization form?

You still need to submit the form. Complete the student information on the first page and sign the **TWO** areas on the second page requesting exemption.

What transcripts do I have to submit?

You must submit **TWO** official *unopened* transcripts or 1 E-Scripts sent directly to education@lacollege.edu from **EVERY** college you have attended. Any degrees conferred must be listed with the date of completion and a cumulative GPA. The only exception is if you are already teaching on a temporary license **TAT/PL2/or other temporary license** and the state has your official transcripts. In this case *only*, ONE official unopened transcript is needed.

Can I submit photocopies of my PRAXIS/ACT/SAT scores?

No. You should submit official score reports unless instructed otherwise.

How do I submit official test scores?

To make sure that our department and the State Department of Education receive your official PRAXIS scores, enter your Social Security Number and list Louisiana College and Louisiana State Department of Education under Score Recipients when you sign up to take your PRAXIS exams.

For ACT or SAT scores to be accepted by the State Department of Education, scores must be received from the following sources:

- scores submitted directly from ACT (<http://www.act.org/workkeys/asr/faq.html>)
- scores submitted directly from SAT (<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/sending.html>)
- verification of your official scores through an official letter on college letterhead from college dean or college registrar. This should be treated as an official transcript and submitted in the original sealed envelope.

Can I submit an incomplete application?

Yes. You can submit the application as you complete the individual sections. You will not be admitted until all parts of the application are received and your folder has been evaluated.

What are the Portal One Questions?

There are five questions total on the application. These questions help us to better know you and your professional goals. These questions are included with the application packet.

GPA:

What GPA is required?

You can start the program with a 2.2 or higher cumulative GPA. You must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA in the TEACH Program coursework in order to be certified. Additional coursework may be required to raise your cumulative GPA.

PRAXIS:

What is the PRAXIS?

PRAXIS is series of exams offered by Education Testing Services (www.ets.org). Specific PRAXIS exams are required by the Louisiana Department of Education for each certification area.

What parts of the PRAXIS am I required to take?

You must have passing scores on the PRAXIS I Reading, Writing, and Math Exams **after September 1, 2014 the Core Academic Skills for Educators Reading, Writing and Math test is required**. You must also have passing scores on PRAXIS II in the core content area in which you are seeking certification. To register for tests, visit the following website: www.ets.org. For exemptions, see question regarding exemptions below.

Which PRAXIS content exam do I take?

Log on to www.ets.org and click on PRAXIS. You will see in the center of the PRAXIS page, "State Testing Requirements." Using the drop down box, select "Louisiana" and click "Go." There is a chart listing the Test Name and Qualifying Scores accepted by the state. *NOTE:* ALWAYS make sure you pull up the Louisiana State PRAXIS Requirements for the most accurate and current tests required. ETS will let you take any test you want but if the test is not accepted by Louisiana, you will be wasting your money.

What is the minimum PRAXIS score required for the Louisiana College Practitioner Teacher Program (TEACH)?

Louisiana College follows the Louisiana State Department of Education PRAXIS Score minimums.

Will Louisiana College accept my PRAXIS scores if I passed them prior to the new score effective date?

Yes. The Louisiana State Department of Education accepts passing scores for tests based on the date test was in effect and the score required at that time. This includes NTE exams that were taken before PRAXIS was the required exam.

Can I be exempt from PRAXIS I?

You may be exempt from PRAXIS I if you meet one of the following criteria:

- you have an earned Master's Degree in a field other than education from an accredited institution
- you have an ACT score of 22 or higher
- you have an SAT combined quantitative/verbal score of 1030 or higher.

You must submit official PRAXIS, ACT or SAT scores or an official Master's degree transcript at the time of application or verification of your official scores through a letter on college letterhead from your college dean or college registrar.

To order ACT or SAT score reports, go to the following links:

ACT (<http://www.act.org/workkeys/asr/faq.html>)

SAT (<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/sending.html>)

When do I take the PRAXIS?

You must take and pass the required PRAXIS exams before the Practitioner Teacher Program begins in June. Some tests are available as computer based exams. Most are available on national paper based test dates in January and April. Please allow 30 days for Louisiana College to receive your scores.

What is the last date I can take the PRAXIS?

The recommended last date to take the PRAXIS exams in order for scores to be received by the application deadline is April 1.

What if I missed the April PRAXIS Exam deadline?

If you take any PRAXIS exam in April, you will not be admitted until scores are received either by phone (ETS charges \$30 for scores over the phone) or by mail or by email. If you do not pass, you will not be admitted to the program.

When do I take the PRAXIS PLT?

The PRAXIS PLT is the third part of the PRAXIS required for certification. We recommend that you take it while you are enrolled in the TEACH program because the TEACH coursework will better prepare you for it. You must pass it before you can be certified.

I am seeking certification in Special Education. What PRAXIS exams do I take and when?

Special Education Mild/Moderate (SPED) is broken down into three different grade levels as indicated in the table below.

The PRAXIS I or **after September 1, 2014** Core Academic Skills for Educators Reading, Writing and Math requirements are the same as all other areas.

The PRAXIS II requirements are based on the grade level you are teaching. Note: You will receive a dual certification in Special Education and the subject area of your PRAXIS Content exam.

Grade Level	PRAXIS Content Required (take for Admission)	PRAXIS PLT Required (take while in TEACH)	PRAXIS SPED Exam Required (take while in TEACH)
SPED Grades 1-5	Elementary Education (0014 or 5014)	PLT K-6 (0622 or 5622)	Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543 or 5543)
SPED Grades 4-8	<p>ONE of the following:</p> <p>*Grades 4-8 <u>Math</u> (0069) as of Sept.2014 (5169)</p> <p>*Grades 4-8 <u>Science</u> as of Sept.2014 (0439)(5440)</p> <p>*Grades 4-8 <u>Social Studies</u> (0089 or 5089)</p> <p>*Grades 4-8 <u>English/Language Arts</u> (0049 or 5049)as of Sept.2014(5047)</p>	PLT 5-9 (0623 or 5623)	Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543 or 5543)
SPED Grades 6-12	<p>ONE of the following in 6-12:</p> <p>*<u>English Language, Literature, & Composition</u> (Content 0041 & Pedagogy 0043, OR 5041) as of Sept.2014 (5039)</p> <p>*<u>Mathematics</u> (0061 or 5061) as of Sept.2014 (5161)</p> <p>*<u>Social Studies</u> (0086 or 5086)</p> <p>*Any one of the following Science Areas:</p> <p>-<u>Biology</u> (0235 or 5235)</p> <p>-<u>Chemistry</u> (0245 or 5245)</p> <p>-<u>General Science</u> (0435 or 5435)</p> <p>-<u>Physics</u> (0265 or 5265)</p>	PLT 7-12 (0624 or 5624)	Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543 or 5543)