Guidelines for Advising Potential Teach Arizona Applicants

It is important for applicants to understand that Teach Arizona is a master’s degree teacher certification program. It is full-time, and students must take the coursework in the prescribed order, beginning in May and ending the following May.

Please refer to the Teach Arizona website: https://www.coe.arizona.edu/ta for extensive information about the program, including application deadlines and FAQ’s.

The Teach Arizona Program has the following admission criteria:

- B.A. or B.S. degree from an accredited four-year institution.
- Strong content background with approximately 24 units in ONE of the approved content areas. (see below)
- 3.0 GPA – calculated by use of the undergraduate cumulative GPA (at least 60 semester units at graduating institution) or, if undergraduate GPA is less than a 3.0, the GPA will be calculated on the most recently completed 60 transfer units. No professional program credits will be counted (law, medicine, etc.).
- 3.0 GPA in content area coursework.

Below is a delineation of the various types of content-area units we are looking for when reviewing the transcripts of potential Teach Arizona applicants. This information may be helpful when advising undergraduates as to the types of courses they should take to put themselves in the best position to apply for our program. The general rule of thumb is that a course should have a prefix that matches the content area (i.e., an Art History course will not count as a History course).

If you have any questions as to whether a specific course would be acceptable, you may contact either Barry Roth (roth@email.arizona.edu) or Patty Stowers (pstowers@email.arizona.edu). We will also review unofficial transcripts if you send them to us. Barry Roth reviews math or science applications. Patty Stowers reviews social studies, English, or World Languages applications. If you are specifically interested in our Chandler program, you may contact our Chandler coordinator, Mike Lang, mglang@email.arizona.edu. He will also review transcripts.

Math

- Applicants need to have coursework in higher-level math. We will consider students with fewer than 24 units of math if they have progressed through Calculus.

English

- Applicants need approximately 24 units of English. The units should include a blend of the following courses: Grammar, Shakespeare, Literary Analysis, Survey of British Literature, Survey of American Literature, and Composition.
Science

- Applicants need approximately 24 units in one of the following science areas:
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Biology
  - Earth Science
  - General Science (12 units of life science, 12 units of any other type of science)

Social Studies

- Applicants need approximately 24 units in one of the following areas:
  - History
  - Political Science
  - Economics
  - Social Studies (24 units from a blend of History, Pol Sci, Economics)

- Units in other social science areas such as sociology, psychology, geography, anthropology, art history, etc. do not count towards the 24 units.

- If a student wishes to be certified to teach History, they should have a blend of world and US history. The school districts typically teach world and US history separately, but the state’s history certification exam combines them, so they should make sure that their 24 units give them a well-rounded history background. Advise them to take the US history survey courses that cover broad ranges of US History. Advise them to take world history courses that focus on many regions of the world (Europe, Far East, Mid East, Africa, South/Central America)

- If a student wishes to be certified to teach Political Science/American Government, they should take courses focused on the American political system so they are prepared to teach an American Government course (US/Arizona Constitution, Presidency, Congress, Judicial Branch, Political Parties, Electoral Process, Civil Liberties).

- We will admit applicants who have a combined total of 24 units in History, Political Science, but we will likely place that student in a middle school social studies class for student teaching. Please remind students who fall into this category that they will still have to be able to pass an NES exam in History, Political Science/American Government or Economics for certification.

Spanish/French

- Applicants should have approximately 24 units of Spanish or French, even if they are native and/or fluent speakers. We will consider applicants with fewer formal units in the language if there is a unique situation (such as experience in the Peace Corps, etc.), so have them contact us.

- Part of their Teach Arizona interview will be conducted in Spanish or French to determine whether the applicant has command of grammar and a sufficient level of fluency to effectively teach at the middle and high school level.
American Sign Language

- The state of Arizona does not have a certification test for ASL. “If a proficiency assessment is not offered in a subject area, an approved area shall consist of 24 semester hours of subject-related courses from an accredited institution.”

- Applicants to Teach Arizona must therefore have 24 units of ASL coursework. The following courses may satisfy this requirement:
  - ASL Level 1 (4 units)
  - ASL Level 2 (4 units)
  - ASL Level 3 (4 units)
  - ASL Level 4 (4 units)
  - SERP 444A: Intensive ASL (taught in Summer, 6 units)
  - SERP 433s (4 course options offered once every 2 years in a rotating sequence; 3 units each)
  - SERP 452: Introduction to Educational Interpreting (3 units)
  - SERP 453: Models of Interpretation and Transliteration (3 units)

- Applicants should demonstrate fluency in ASL. A portion of the Teach Arizona admission interview will be conducted in ASL to determine fluency.

Mandarin

- Applicants in the area of Mandarin will be offered an interview if they meet any of the following:
  1. They have completed approximately 24 units of college-level Mandarin language coursework.
  2. They have graduated from a Chinese university.
  3. They have passed the Arizona NES certification exam in Mandarin
  4. They have taken a valid and reliable assessment of language proficiency in Mandarin (including speaking, listening, reading and writing). Example of minimum passing scores: “Superior” on the ACTFL OPIc.

- A portion of the interview will be conducted in Mandarin to further assess literacy and fluency. Finally, we will focus on how much experience that applicant has had with the American educational system, either as a student, teacher or volunteer.

General Advice:

- Prior experience working with school-aged children is very beneficial when interviewing for Teach Arizona. The ACE minor (Adolescents, Community and Education) for undergraduates is great preparation. [http://www.coe.arizona.edu/ace/minor](http://www.coe.arizona.edu/ace/minor).
- Please advise any potential teacher candidate to take a US/Arizona Constitution course or take the AEPA exam, if possible, since this is a requirement for state certification.
- Students may count only ONE of these undergraduate courses towards their Teach Arizona graduate degree:
  - Structured English Immersion – LCEV 408 or TLE 416
  - Special Education – SERP 400
  - Content Area Literacy – TLS 435