Initial Certification Masters of Elementary Education
Department of Elementary Education
Information - 936-468-2904 - Ms. Ester Cole – Senior Secretary

The initial certification program is part of an Elementary Education Master's Degree. This is not a Certification only program. In order to receive a Certification to teach in EC-6 or 4-8, you will also work to obtain your Masters of Elementary Education.

Admission Requirements:
1. **2.75 overall** undergraduate GPA (due to recent state law requirements) and **2.8 in your last 60 hours** undergraduate GPA;
2. **Passing PACT** (see below) score in the content area you wish to teach; and
3. **Application** to Grad School.

There are Three Components to Getting Certified to Teach Through SFA:
1. **Two Tests** – Pre Admission Content Test (PACT) taken **before** you enter the program and Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities TExES taken prior to program completion.
2. **Coursework** - 30-33 hours in elementary education; and,
3. **Field Experience** - either one semester of student teaching -or- a one-year internship as the teacher of record in a classroom on a probationary teaching certificate.

Steps to Admission: This is PRIOR to being able to be advised!
1. **Sign up** and take the Pre Admission Content Test **PACT**. If you are **EC-6** you will take the **TExES 191**. If you are **4-8** you will take the **TExES Content Test** that you are certifying in. Here is the link to the PACT – [http://www.texas.ets.org](http://www.texas.ets.org). (Register at top of page, click on new user at bottom of page, to right of TEA ID click on "no TEA ID", then on bottom of page click on "pre-admission content tests (PACT)."
   - T-CERT - State approved test preparation website for students taking EC-12 PPR [http://pact.tarleton.edu/tcert/](http://pact.tarleton.edu/tcert/)
   - After you are admitted with the **PACT Complete** (meaning you have taken and passed the PACT) you will receive a letter from the Associate Dean stating you are highly qualified under the terms of No Child Left Behind. With this letter you may apply for jobs.
2. **Apply** to the SFASU Graduate School
   - Make sure you apply for a Master of Elementary Education. You will answer, “yes” to the question near the end of the application that asks - Do you plan to obtain a Standard Texas Teaching Certificate. [http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/116.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/116.asp)
   - Make sure the Graduate School has all of your **undergraduate transcripts** if you did not graduate from SFA!
3. **Do I need the meningitis vaccine?**
   - If you are **under 30**, you are required by law to have this shot. If you are in a hurry to be admitted, please get the shot and provide proof to the Graduate School as soon as possible.
4. **Once your application packet is complete** in the Graduate Office, it will be sent over to our department – the Department of Elementary Education. The Senior Secretary, Ms. Cole, will e-mail you a short survey to fill out that will determine which certification path you are choosing.
5. **Fill out the survey** and email it back to Ms. Cole. She will then send your application packet with your survey to the correct faculty advisor for review.

6. Your **faculty advisor will review your application paperwork** and make a determination for acceptance and all of your paperwork will be sent back to the Graduate Office. **Failure to pass the PACT, or if you have not taken the PACT, will be an automatic denial and you will have to retake the PACT test until you pass before continuing forward**

7. At this time, your **Advisor will e-mail you** and begin the process of having you fill out a degree plan and advising you for coursework.

8. The **Graduate Office will send you a Notice of Admissions** letter. This will come to your mysfa account online as well as in a hard copy in the mail.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **Is all coursework online?**
  - Yes, coursework is all online with the exception of your field experience. If you are employed by a school district, you will complete a year long internship that is supervised by someone from SFA. If you are not employed at the end of your coursework, you will complete a semester of student teaching.

- **Is there financial aid for this program?**
  - Yes - check with your financial aid advisor about the following
    - To stay up to date with loan forgiveness updates sign up for this email list: [http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/cgibin/wa?SUBED2=name&A=1&L=loanforgive&b.x+50&b.y=23](http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/cgibin/wa?SUBED2=name&A=1&L=loanforgive&b.x+50&b.y=23)

**Helpful Links:**

- Tuition Calculator (make sure you choose graduate school) - In addition to tuition there will be supervision and mentoring fees of $1500 that we pay directly to your supervisor and mentor from fees you pay SFASU. [http://www.sfasu.edu/controller/businessoffice/students/tuition_calc.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/controller/businessoffice/students/tuition_calc.asp)

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**Please contact your advisor, via e-mail, for questions:**

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