By Dr. E. Robert Mackey
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Teachers educated outside Alaska often enjoy the excitement of a new state, but find Alaska teacher certification confusing and challenging. Having been educated in Arkansas, I will admit that I found some of the Alaska requirements baffling. As a result, I have attempted to ease the process by providing information and services to teachers all over Alaska that need help transitioning to Alaska Teacher Certification.

Teacher Certification in Alaska typically requires:
1. Passage of an approved basic competency exam,
2. Official copies of your transcripts from an approved teacher education preparation program,
3. An institutions or state recommendation or proof of program enrollment,
4. Satisfactory fingerprint and background checks,
5. A signed and notarized certification application,
6. Fees,
7. One approved Alaska Studies Course,
8. One approved Multicultural Course, and
9. Passage of a Praxis content area exam (for “Highly Qualified” designation).

The remainder of this newsletter will explain these steps in more detail and help teachers navigate the teacher certification process.

At UAF Chukchi, we can help all professional staff meet their professional certification requirements by accurately and efficiently advising and placing professional staff into classes and competency exams that meet the Alaska teacher certification requirements.

If you need any assistance receiving educational or testing services, please contact me.
The State of Alaska recognizes the Praxis I as its preferred Basic Competency Exam for teachers. As of Dec. 1, 2010, teachers need to score a 175 Reading, 174 Writing, and 173 Math to pass certification requirements.

To register for the Praxis I exam, please visit http://www.ets.org/praxis/register

In addition to the Praxis, the State of Alaska will also accept the following scores from alternative tests, as of Dec. 1, 2010.

CBEST
Total Score of 123 with no individual scores less than 37.

WEST-B
Reading, Writing, and Math scores must each meet or exceed 240.

ALABAMA WORK KEYS
Reading for Information = 4 or higher; Writing = 3 or higher; and Applied math = 4 or higher.

The State of Alaska also accepts some basic competency exams from the states of Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, and Oklahoma. For more information, please visit: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/praxis.html

Institutional Recommendation and State Recommendation

An Institutional Recommendation, a State Recommendation (if an alternate program for certification has been completed—for teachers only), or a Proof of Program Enrollment (for teachers only) must be submit or on file with Teacher Certification. Applicants should only submit the one that applies to their situations. If a university teacher preparation program was completed, submit the complete institutional recommendation. If a state-approved (non-university) program was completed, submit a state recommendation. If a teacher preparation program has not been completed, submit the proof of program enrollment form.

Alaska does not accept transcript analysis or testing in lieu of program completion.

For forms and more information, please visit: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/recomm.html

Transcripts

All transcripts must be OFFICIAL transcripts. Unofficial transcripts, advising transcripts, and photocopies do not meet Alaska certification requirements.

Official transcripts for all colleges/universities attended to complete your degree(s) and approved preparation program(s) must be submitted with your application or been previously submitted to Teacher Certification. Official transcripts may be opened by applicant to verify the correct coursework and/or degree(s) are posted; however, they may not be marked on in any way. The Teacher Certification Office accepts official transcripts after they have been opened, provided they contain the registrar’s signature/seal and are printed on official university transcript paper. Photocopies will not be accepted.

For more information, please visit the Alaska Teacher Certification Webpage at: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/transcripts.html

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New Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

There are two loan forgiveness programs that help teachers:

#1: The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue in the teaching profession. Under this program, individuals who teach full time for five consecutive, complete academic years in certain elementary and secondary schools that serve low-income families and meet other qualifications may be eligible for forgiveness of up to a combined total of $17,500 in principal and interest on their FFEL and/or Direct Loan program loans. For more information, visit http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/cancelstaff.jsp#elementary_school

#2: The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 established a new public service loan forgiveness program. This program discharges any remaining debt after 10 years of full-time employment in public service. The borrower must have made 120 payments as part of the Direct Loan program in order to obtain this benefit. Only payments made on or after October 1, 2007 count toward the required 120 monthly payments. More information can be found at https://www.dl.ed.gov/borrower/PDFFrances.jsp?PDF=otrフト_intégr_IBR8_pack.pdf

Spring 2011 Approved Alaska Studies Courses Offered

ANS F242 - 3 sem. hrs. Native Cultures of Alaska
39114 UI1 ANS F242 Jennifer Carroll MW 5:10pm- 6:40pm (Audio Conf)
39267 US1 ANS F242 Jennifer Carroll Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

GEOG F302 - 3 sem. hrs. Geography of Alaska
36345 US1 GEOG F302 K Kirk Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

HIST 115 - 3 sem. hrs. Alaska-Land and People
36350 US1 HIST F115 Rosalie L’Ecuyer Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

HIST 461 - 3 sem. hrs. History of Alaska
36355 US1 HIST F461 John Heaton Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

PS 462 - 3 sem. hrs. Alaska Government and Politics
36395 US1 PS F101 K Kirk Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

More approved classes and information can be found on our webpage at http://www.uaf.edu/chukchi/teacher-certification-con

Spring 2011 Approved Multicultural Courses Offered

ED 461 - 3 sem. hrs. Native Ways of Knowing
37376 FXA ED F461 Theresa John T-TH 5:20pm- 6:50pm

EDSC 457 - 4 sem. hrs. Multicultural Ed and School Community Relations
34589 FXA EDSC F457 Richard Burmeister M 5:00 - 8:00 pm

ED 616 - 3 sem. hrs. Education and Socioeconomic Change
36328 US1 ED F616 Raymond Barnhardt Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only

ED 631 - 3 sem. hrs. Small School Curriculum Design
36329 US1 ED F631 Raymond Barnhardt Correspond - Non Fairbanks Area Only
## Registration Form

### Personal Information

- **Last Name**: [Blank]
- **First Name**: [Blank]
- **Middle Name**: [Blank]
- **Social Security Number**: [Blank]
- **Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)**: [Blank]
- **UA ID Number**: [Blank]
- **Address**: [Blank]
- **City**: [Blank]
- **State**: [Blank]
- **ZIP Code**: [Blank]
- **E-mail Address**: [Blank]
- **Evening Phone**: [Blank]
- **Day Phone**: [Blank]
- **Permanent Phone**: [Blank]
- **Fax Phone**: [Blank]

### Demographics

- **Gender**: [ ] Male  [ ] Female
- **US Citizen?**: [ ] Yes  [ ] No
- **Nation of Birth**: [Blank]
- **Race**: [Blank]
- **Date of Birth**: [Blank]
- **Citizenship**: [Blank]
- **Nationality**: [Blank]
- **VISA Type**: [Blank]
- **Religion**: [Blank]
- **Did you graduate from high school?**: [ ] Yes  [ ] No
- **Date of Graduation**: [Blank]

### Academic Information

- **Current Level**: [Blank]
- **Course Information**
  - [ ] Audit
  - [ ] Degree
  - [ ] Certificate

### Payment Information

- **Form of Payment**
  - [ ] Check
  - [ ] Money Order
  - [ ] Cash

### Date and Signature

- **Signature**: [Blank]
- **Date**: [Blank]
- **Advisor Signature**: [Blank]