



What is RAIDER Teach?

RAIDER Teach is Texas Tech’s high-quality, university-based alternative teacher certification option which allows candidates to become a certified middle or secondary teacher in Texas with the credibility of a Tier One Research institution. Candidates also gain graduate college credit hours, many of which may be applied toward a [Master’s of Education in Curriculum and Instruction](#) or other select College of Education graduate programs.

What is alternative certification?

Alternative teacher certification provides a pathway for individuals with a bachelor’s degree, but not a traditional education degree, to become certified teachers. It offers a faster route to the classroom than traditional programs, offering accelerated coursework and on-the-job training with a focus on practical teaching skills.

What certification options are available through RAIDER Teach?

Currently, RAIDER Teach prepares candidates for certification in the following content areas:

- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Grades 4-8 – Science
- Grades 7-12 – English Language Arts and Reading
- Grades 7-12 – History
- Grades 7-12 – Social Studies
- Grades 7-12 – Chemistry
- Grades 7-12 – Science
- Grades 7-12 – Life Science
- Grades 6-12 – Physical Science
- Grades 7-12 – Math
- Grades 7-12 – Physics
- Grades EC-12 – Spanish
- Grades EC-12 – Technology Applications

*Beginning Spring 2027, the following certification content areas will also be available:
Grades EC-6 – Core Subjects, Grades EC-12 – Special Education, and Grades 4-8 – Math.*



Where is RAIDER Teach offered or available?

RAIDER Teach program coursework is completed online. Pre-service classroom observations (50 hours) and a two-semester classroom internship are completed in a TEA-approved school district in the State of Texas.

Locations of partnership school districts where internships may be available:

West Texas Region

- Amarillo
- Brownfield
- Coahoma
- Idalou
- Lamesa
- Lubbock
- Midland
- Seagraves
- Seminole
- Snyder

Northeast Texas Region

- Burleson
- Dallas
- Fort Worth
- Grand Prairie

Central Texas Region

- Waco
- Lorena

South Central Texas

- Fayetteville
- Northside ISD (San Antonio)

Southeast Texas Region

- Houston

Hill Country Region

- * Buda
- * Burnet
- * Fredericksburg
- * Marble Falls
- * New Braunfels
- * Round Rock

*(Other districts by request and review.)**

* Please note that while every effort will be made to support the requested location, alternatives may be suggested if this is not possible.

How long is the program?

Teacher certification through RAIDER Teach will take between 12 and 15 months to complete depending on semester of entry. Students should be prepared to complete a pre-admission content test (PACT) prior to admission.



What is the cost?

Tuition rates for RAIDER Teach are based on residency (Texas Resident, Non-Resident, or Foreign) and can vary between \$415 and \$500 per semester credit-hour. Applicants may use the [TTU Tuition Estimator](#) to generate a personalized estimate.

On average, with a total of 18 semester hours, the approximate cost of RAIDER Teach is \$8,000.

While graduate certificate programs such as RAIDER Teach are not eligible for federal grants and loans, students may contact the [Financial Aid office](#) to explore other types of assistance. **Scholarships are available, with specific awards for those in West Texas.**

When can I start?

RAIDER Teach offers three program entry points for potential candidates – Spring, Summer, and Fall.

How can I apply?

Apply to the **RAIDER Teach Graduate Certificate** program in the Graduate Admissions portal (<https://ttugradschool.my.site.com/admissions/ApplicationLogin>) to begin the application process.

Where do I send my transcript(s)?

Transcripts should be attached to the graduate school application (<https://ttugradschool.my.site.com/admissions/ApplicationLogin>).

Do I get paid while I'm teaching?

Yes, you are hired on an Intern certificate and will be the teacher of record for the internship year. While the pay rate may vary, you are paid as a faculty member of the school district while completing the RAIDER Teach program.

When am I fully certified?

You will be eligible for standard certification when you successfully complete all coursework and internship requirements.



What is an Intern Certificate?

An intern certificate, issued by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), is a temporary certification that allows an individual to teach while completing the final requirements for a full teacher certificate. To qualify, candidates must have a bachelor's degree, pass all required content exams, and be enrolled in an approved educator preparation program. The certificate is valid for one year and is not renewable.

What type of background check is required?

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires that all teacher candidates complete a national criminal history background check through a fingerprinting process. If you have concerns about this process, you can request a preliminary criminal history background check first through TEA.

Please visit this link for more info:

https://tea.texas.gov/Texas_Educators/Investigations/National_Criminal_History_Checks_FAQs/

Is Clinical Teaching an Option?

Currently RAIDER Teach is focused on a full-year internship. However, if you feel completing student teaching rather than being the 'teacher-of-record' during your training is important for your success, please discuss with your advisor for more information on available options in your location.

Can you help me pass the certification exam?

We've compiled an extensive list of [Exam Preparation Materials](#) to help you with your exams!

I'm an international student. Can I participate in RAIDER Teach?

Yes! International and Non-US Citizen students are welcome in RAIDER Teach.

Most hiring districts will require you to have a social security number to apply for employment – including an internship. There are special requirements to meet, but we can help you understand these. [Learn more about Non-US Citizens and Degrees from outside the US.](#)



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RAIDER Teach *Frequently Asked Questions*

If your degree is from outside the US, you may need to take the TOEFL test. We'll provide guidance on whether the TOEFL test is necessary for you. [Learn more about the TOEFL test and requirements.](#)