

## 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
- Cohoma
- 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/](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.](#)



## 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.](#)