

1 **A.A.C. R7-2-601. Definitions**

2 In this Article, the following definitions apply unless the context otherwise requires:

3 1. ~~“Accredited institution” means one which is listed as accredited in the current Higher~~
4 ~~Education Directory~~ a postsecondary institution that has accreditation that is recognized by the
5 U.S. Department of Education. An institution based outside the United States shall be considered
6 accredited if ~~an a Department-~~approved foreign document evaluation firm ~~approved by the~~
7 ~~Department declares it to be comparable to an accredited American institution~~ verifies that it has
8 accreditation in the foreign country that is comparable to accreditation that is recognized by the
9 U.S. Department of Education.

10 2. “Accredited training” means training provided by an organization that has accreditation from
11 an association approved by the Board.

12 3. “Appropriately certified” means holding the certificate, endorsement and approved area that
13 is required for a teaching assignment.

14 4. “Approved area” means a subject area denoted on a teaching certificate that is taught in
15 Arizona public schools.

16 ~~2.~~ 5. “Board” means the State Board of Education.

17 6. “Capstone experience” means a culminating professional experience in a preK through 12
18 setting that may include student teaching or internships in administration, counseling, or school
19 psychology, or alternative path preK through 12 teaching.

20 ~~3.~~ 7. “CTE” means Career and Technical Education.

21 ~~4.~~ 8. “Department” means the Arizona Department of Education.

22 ~~5.~~ 9. “Practicum” means a period of structured observation and practice of the skills being
23 learned, supervised by an individual trained in that area. The commonly used terms “student
24 teaching,” “internship,” “residency,” or “observation course” are included in this definition.

25 ~~6.~~ 10. “Professional development” means training to increase skills related to the occupation of
26 education.

27 11. “Self-contained classroom” means a classroom in which the teacher teaches multiple
28 subjects to one class of students.

29 12. “Single subject classroom” means a classroom in which the teacher teaches one subject to
30 one class of students.

31 ~~7.~~ 13. “Teaching experience” means full-time employment which included full responsibility
32 for the planning and delivery of instruction and evaluation of student learning. Except for
33 meeting the capstone experience requirement when applying for a standard teaching certificate,
34 substitute teaching is not considered full-time teaching experience.

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1 **A.A.C. R7-2-607. General Certification Provisions**

2 **A.** The evaluation to determine qualification for certification shall not begin until an
3 institutional recommendation or application for certification and official transcripts, and the
4 appropriate fees have been received by the Department. Course descriptions, verification of
5 employment, and other documents may also be required for the evaluation.

6 **B.** Unless otherwise specified, a standard certificate shall be issued for ~~twelve~~ 12 years and
7 may be issued with deficiencies. Applicants may receive a standard certificate with the following
8 deficiencies of requirements to be completed within three years: research-based phonics; reading
9 instruction including for students with dyslexia; professionalism and ethics; and U.S. and Arizona
10 Constitutions. If an applicant fails to meet these requirements within the prescribed time period,
11 the Department of Education or the Board shall temporarily suspend the standard certificate, but
12 the suspension is not considered a disciplinary action and the individual shall be allowed to correct
13 the deficiency within the remaining time of the standard certification.

14 **C.** The effective date of a new certificate shall be the date the evaluation is completed by the
15 Department. The effective date of a renewed certificate shall be the date the evaluation for renewal
16 is completed by the Department.

17 **D.** Unless otherwise specified, all certificates and provisional endorsements issued for three
18 years or less shall expire on the date of issuance in the year of expiration. All certificates issued
19 for more than three years shall expire on the holder's birth date in the year of expiration.

20 **E.** Only those degrees awarded by an accredited institution shall be considered to satisfy the
21 requirements for certification.

22 **F.** Professional preparation programs, courses, practica, and examinations required for
23 certification shall be taken at an accredited institution or a Board-approved teacher preparation
24 program.

25 **G.** Only those courses in which the applicant received a passing grade or credit shall be
26 considered to satisfy the requirements for certification.

27 **H.** All certificates issued by the Board before the effective date of this Article are
28 considered to have been issued in conformance with these rules.

29 **I.** ~~The Board shall issue a comparable Arizona certificate, if one has been established by R7-~~
30 ~~2-608, R7-2-609, R7-2-610, R7-2-611, R7-2-612, or R7-2-613, and shall waive the requirements~~
31 ~~for passing the comparable professional knowledge, subject knowledge, and performance portions~~
32 ~~of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, to an applicant who holds current comparable~~
33 ~~certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The Department shall~~
34 issue a comparable standard Arizona certificate described in R7-2-608, R7-2-609, R7-2-610, R7-
35 2-611, R7-2-612 or R7-2-613 to an applicant who holds a valid certification from the National
36 Board for Professional Teaching Standards, possess a valid fingerprint clearance card issued by
37 the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and holds a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from
38 an accredited institution. These applicants are exempt from all portions of the Arizona Teacher
39 Proficiency Assessment.

40 **J.** An applicant is not required to take any portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency
41 Assessment if the applicant has at least three years of full-time teaching experience in any state,
42 including this state, in the comparable area of certification or endorsement in which the person is
43 applying for certification, regardless of whether the applicant was certified or uncertified. An
44 applicant is not required to take any portion of the Arizona Administrator Proficiency Assessment
45 if the person has ~~been an~~ at least three years of full-time experience as a school administrator in
46 any state, including this state, regardless of whether the applicant was certified or uncertified.

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1 **K.** An applicant is exempt from the testing requirements for Arizona certificates if the
2 applicant passed corresponding portions of a professional or subject knowledge examinations, or
3 administrator examination adopted by a state agency in another state that are substantially similar
4 to the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessments or the Arizona Administrator Proficiency
5 Assessment.

6 **L.** An applicant is exempt from the subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher
7 Proficiency Assessment if:

8 1. The applicant provides verification of teaching courses relevant to a content area or
9 subject matter for the last two consecutive years, and for a total of at least three years at one or
10 more accredited postsecondary institutions; or

11 2. The applicant obtained a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an accredited
12 institution in a relevant subject area; or

13 3. The applicant provides verification of a minimum of five years of work experience
14 that is relevant to a subject area of certification.

15 **M.** ~~Teachers in grades six through twelve whose primary assignment is in an academic subject~~
16 ~~required pursuant to R7-2-301 and R7-2-302, shall hold a certificate, endorsement, or approved~~
17 ~~area in the assigned subject or demonstrate proficiency~~ Unless otherwise specified, individuals
18 who hold a valid Arizona elementary, middle grades or secondary certificate, or a special education
19 certificate that includes grades six through 12, may add an approved area to their certificate by
20 passing the appropriate subject area portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment or as
21 provided in subsections (J) (K) and (L). ~~The subject areas of demonstrated proficiency~~ Any
22 approved area shall be specified on the certificate. If a proficiency assessment is not offered in a
23 subject area, an approved area shall consist of a minimum of 24 semester hours of courses in the
24 subject.

25 **N.** If a language assessment is not offered through the Arizona Teacher Proficiency
26 Assessment, a passing score on a nationally accredited test of a foreign language approved by the
27 Board may demonstrate proficiency of that foreign language in lieu of the 24 semester hours of
28 courses in that subject.

29 **O.** A teacher's language proficiency in a Native American language shall be verified by a
30 person, persons, or entity designated by the appropriate tribe in lieu of the 24 semester hours of
31 courses in that subject.

32 **P.** Teachers of homebound students shall hold the same certificate that is required of a
33 classroom teacher.

34 **Q.** Fingerprint clearance cards shall be issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

35 **R.** A person who surrenders their teaching certificate for any reason shall not submit an
36 application for certification with the Board for a period of five years. A person re-applying after
37 the five-year ban must apply under the current rules at the time of re-application.

38 ~~**S.**—A teacher with National Board Certification in the subject area(s) the applicant is seeking~~
39 ~~certification(s) is exempt from the professional knowledge and the subject knowledge portions of~~
40 ~~the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessments.~~

41 **T.S.** Notwithstanding any other provision, an individual with a deficiency in the Arizona and
42 U.S. Constitutions who teaches an academic course that focuses primarily on history, government,
43 social studies, citizenship, law or civics shall be issued a standard certificate subject to suspension
44 in one year if that deficiency is not removed. The suspension is not considered a disciplinary action
45 and the individual shall be allowed to correct that deficiency within the remaining time of the
46 standard certification.

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- 1 ~~U. T.~~ As used in this article, unless otherwise provided, “work experience” means paid or unpaid
2 work experience, including teaching experience as a certificated or noncertificated educator at a
3 public or private school, identified in the submission of a resume verified by a hiring
4 ~~superintendent of personnel director at the public school or the Department of Education~~ which
5 demonstrates knowledge or skill relevant to a subject area. Work experience, and its relevance to
6 a subject area, shall be verified with one of the following:
- 7 1. A letter from a superintendent or personnel director that the applicant demonstrates
8 knowledge or skill in the subject area that is comparable to holding a bachelor’s degree, master’s
9 degree, or doctoral degree in that subject area, as identified in a resume;
- 10 2. A letter from a public or private school superintendent or personnel director, in this
11 state or in another state, that the applicant has the requisite experience teaching the most advanced
12 Arizona academic standards, or comparable out-of-state standards, in the subject area sought; or
- 13 3. If an applicant is unable to obtain a letter described in subsections (1) or (2), the
14 applicant may submit a letter from a current or former supervisor verifying that the applicant
15 demonstrates knowledge or skill in the subject area that is comparable to holding a bachelor’s
16 degree, master’s degree, or doctoral degree in that subject area, as determined by the Department.
- 17 U. Single subject classroom teachers in grades six through 12 are required to be appropriately
18 certified for the subject they teach for the greater part of their instructional schedule. If a teacher
19 is assigned to two or more subjects for equal parts of their instructional schedule, the teacher is
20 required to be appropriately certified in each subject.
- 21 V. The requirements to be considered appropriately certified for a self-contained, single
22 subject, or other classroom shall be established in the Certification Guidelines for Teaching
23 Assignments, which shall be approved by the Board and on file with the Department.