

## **What is an Intern certificate?**

### **Check out this link:**

<http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=6&Q=32343>

The Pennsylvania Teacher Intern Certification Program is specifically designed for individuals who possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.

The Intern certificate is a valid professional certificate that entitles the holder to fill a full-time professional teaching position. An Intern certificated individual is entitled to all rights and privileges of a temporary professional employee as defined by law. The current regulation states that a Teacher Intern certificate qualifies the holder to hold a full-time teaching position in the certification endorsement area in elementary and secondary schools of Pennsylvania.

The Teacher Intern certificate is issued for a period not to exceed three calendar years and qualifies the holder to perform all the duties, functions and responsibilities of the certification area(s) for which it is endorsed. Its validity begins the month of issuance and lapses 36 months later whether or not the holder has been continuously employed on the Intern certificate by a public school. It can only be issued once and under no circumstances can this certificate be renewed. The validity of the Teacher Intern certificate, whether issued for general education areas regularly endorsed on instructional certificates or for vocational education areas, is contingent upon (a) the holder rendering satisfactory service to the employing school entity, and (b) maintaining continuous enrollment and making satisfactory progress within an approved teacher intern program leading to issuance of the Instructional I certificate.

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### **What are the entrance and exit criteria for the Intern Program?**

1. To enroll in a Teacher Intern Program, a candidate must possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree related to the area of certification requested. For example, an individual with a B.S. degree in Chemistry may seek chemistry certification.

2. In Academic year 2002-2003, candidates entering must have a minimum of a 2.8 GPA in their baccalaureate degree. They must also have 6 credits of college level Mathematics and 6 credits of college level English Literature and Composition.

Academic year 2003 and thereafter candidates entering must have a 3.0 GPA in their baccalaureate degree as well as the Mathematics and English credits.

Candidates must exit the Intern Program with at least the same GPA required for entrance.

Institutions of higher education can choose to require a higher GPA for entrance to their Teacher Intern Certification Program than the 2.8.

3. The candidate must apply to and complete an approved institution of higher education's (IHE) preadmission screening and be accepted into the program. (An offer of a teaching position is not a requirement for admission into a Teacher Intern Program nor does it guarantee admission into a specific Teacher Intern Program.)

4. The candidate must achieve satisfactory scores on the Praxis I Preprofessional Skills Tests (PPST) in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics; and the appropriate specialty area test required by the Pennsylvania Teacher Certification Testing Program (PTCTP) before applying for a Teacher Intern certificate. All K-6 and K-12 certification areas must also complete the Praxis Series Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge test.

Upon completion of an Intern Program, the candidate must have assessment of their Student Teaching conducted by the college or university.

5. The candidate must be **continuously enrolled** in a Teacher Intern Program. (Continuously enrolled is defined by the institution where the candidate is enrolled.)

6. When a candidate obtains a teaching position or a firm offer, the institution in which the Intern candidate is enrolled applies to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation for an Intern certificate. After the Bureau verifies the candidate has received passing scores on the required Praxis Series tests, an Intern certificate is issued. The Intern candidate cannot teach without the Intern certificate.

7. Upon completion of the approved Intern Program, the institution of higher education can recommend the candidate for an Instructional I certificate. Before issuing an Instructional I certificate, the Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation must have a record stating that the candidate has passed the Student Teacher Assessment conducted by their college/university during Student Teaching.