

CTS Bridge to Teacher Certification



Q: What is the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Bridge to Teacher Certification Program?

A: The CTS Bridge to Teacher Certification program provides an opportunity for certified journeypeople from various trades, health care professionals and information technologists to complete a teacher preparation program offered by a participating Alberta teacher preparation institution. The bridging program provides participants with the opportunity to work while pursuing an Interim Professional Certificate. Following successful completion of the pre-service courses, the bridging program participant will be authorized to work in schools under a Letter of Authority while he or she continues to study.

The program attracts certified journeypeople, health care professionals and information technologists, who are required for instruction in an advanced dual credit CTS program, to careers in teaching. Advanced dual credit is the term used to describe CTS courses available to high school students. These courses allow students to receive high school credit, as well as credit toward a post-secondary education program.

Q: Why was this program developed?

A: There is currently a shortage of CTS teachers required to offer advanced dual credit courses across the province, so this program will help fill that gap to ensure students have increased opportunities to learn various specialty fields. The bridging program is part of the *Education Sector Workforce Planning Framework for Action* - a five-year strategic plan, designed to provide proactive solutions to emerging demands in the education sector workforce.

Q: How long is the program and what does it involve?

A: The program includes pre-service courses offered by the University of Alberta. They run from September through April. Pre-service courses comprise a minimum of 36 semester hour credits, 8 courses worth 3 credits each and 14 weeks of practicum worth 12 credits.

Q: How are individuals selected for the program?

A: A school authority selects a candidate it believes:

- will serve its CTS needs, and
- meet the entrance requirements of a teacher preparation institution.

Q: Once selected by a school authority what does the individual do?

A: The individual applies to the University of Alberta. The institution applies its entrance requirements - all criteria for entrance into an education program are established by a teacher preparation institution.

For application/admission inquiries please contact:
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Q: Is there funding available?

A: Funding is offered at the following level: a salary subsidy of \$50,000 for the CTS bridging program participant; a sponsor school subsidy of \$18,000 to accommodate .01 Full Time Equivalent (position) release time for CTS bridging program participant's mentor and .01 Full Time Equivalent release time for CTS bridging program participant. The application is approved by Alberta Education, and then the Ministry and the school authority enter into a conditional contract.

Q: What must the individual do to qualify for a Letter of Authority?

A: The bridging program participant completes the pre-service courses of the program comprising a minimum of 36 semester hour credits:

- 24 credits - course work
- 12 credits - 14 weeks of practicum

Q: Does a Letter of Authority give the individual permission to teach any curriculum subject?

A: Upon successful completion of the pre-service courses of the bridging program, Alberta Education will issue participants a Letter of Authority, authorizing them to teach in the CTS cluster that contains their area of first credential (or specialty).

Q: How long can an individual teach under a Letter of Authority?

A: While teaching under a Letter of Authority the individual continues required courses and study towards completion of a Bachelor of Education Degree.

The Letter of Authority contains the following requirements:

- limited teaching to the CTS cluster, which includes the appropriate area of expertise;
- 6 credits (or two courses) must be completed yearly; and
- Three-year term (may be extended).

Q: Is the bridging program participant expected to meet the Knowledge, Skills and Attributes of the Teaching Quality Standard?

A: While teaching under a Letter of Authority, individuals who have completed the pre-service portion of the bridging program are expected to work collaboratively with mentors and supervisors to meet the requirements of the *Teaching Quality Standard* - www.education.alberta.ca/department/policy/standards/teachqual.aspx.

Q: What happens when the bridging program participant completes his or her Bachelor of Education Degree?

- A: The Registrar will issue an Interim Professional Certificate upon:
- o successful completion of required courses and study
 - o demonstrated proficiency as required by the *Teaching Quality Standard*
 - o attestation by the dean of a teacher preparation institution.

Individuals in possession of an Interim Professional Certificate will be granted a Permanent Professional Certificate upon recommendation by an officer in accordance with the *Certification of Teachers Regulation*.

Q: Is the CTS bridging program going to run every year?

A: Currently, the CTS bridging program is funded through the 2011/2012 school year.

Q: Is this a form of alternative teacher certification?

A: Alberta’s standards for Interim Professional Certificate or Permanent Professional Certificate remain unchanged. Attainment of an Alberta teaching certificate is a key requirement of the bridging program.

Q: How is the program structured?

Steps to CTS Bridging Certification Flowchart

School authority applies to Alberta Education for approved funding

- School authority applies to Professional Standards Branch for funding to support a CTS bridging program participant who is required to teach an advanced dual-credit CTS course.



Alberta Education approves proposal

- The application is approved by the Professional Standards Branch of Alberta Education.
- Alberta Education and the school authority enter into a conditional contract.
- Alberta Education allocates funding to a school authority.



Selected CTS bridging program participant is admitted into teacher preparation institution

- School authority selects a candidate to meet its CTS needs.
- CTS bridging program participant applies to teacher preparation institution CTS bridging program.
- Institution applies its entrance requirements. All criteria for entrance into an education program are established by the teacher preparation institution.



Prior learning and assessment recognition (PLAR) completed by teacher preparation institution

- The CTS bridging program participant's previous learning is recognized and credited by the teacher preparation institution (maximum of 30 semester-hour credits).



Pre-service courses

- The CTS bridging program participant completes the pre-service courses consisting of a minimum of 36 semester-hour credits (24 semester-hour credits for coursework; 12 semester-hour credits for 14-weeks of practicum).



Teaching while studying

- Upon successful completion of the pre-service courses and upon application by the school authority, the CTS bridging program participant is granted a Letter of Authority authorizing him or her to teach in the CTS cluster containing his or her area of first credential.
- While teaching under a Letter of Authority, the CTS bridging program participant and supporting school authority staff work collaboratively to meet the *Teaching Quality Standard*.
- While teaching under a Letter of Authority, the CTS bridging program participant continues to take required courses and study toward completion of a Bachelor of Education degree.



Teaching autonomously

- The Registrar will issue an Interim Professional Certificate upon:
 - successful completion of required courses and study and receipt of the Bachelor of Education degree
 - demonstrated proficiency as recognized by the *Teaching Quality Standard*
 - attestation by the dean of a teacher preparation institution.
- Individuals in possession of an Interim Professional Certificate will be granted a Permanent Professional Certificate upon recommendation by an officer, in accordance with the *Certification of Teachers Regulation 3/99*.

Q: Who can I contact for further information?

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