



With  
alternative  
certification,  
**you can  
start teaching  
right away!**

**There are over 6,000 teaching positions open in districts all over Missouri.** If you have a bachelor's degree, you may qualify to start teaching right away through an alternative certification program.

**TEACH**  
MO.ORG

# Benefits of **alternative certification**

- Get a teaching job and earn a salary right away.
- Take classes outside of school hours.
- Typically finish your certification coursework in under 2 years, while you teach.
- At the end of your teaching program, earn your **initial professional certificate**.





# Am I eligible?

You can apply to an alternative certification program and find a teaching job if you meet these requirements.



**Have a bachelor's degree.**



**Show that you know your teaching subject.** You can do this in one of two ways:

- *Have a bachelor's degree in the content area you plan to teach, OR*
- *Pass the Missouri Content Assessment for your teaching subject.*

## Find more resources:

[Your Definitive Guide to the MoCA](#)

[TEACH Missouri Testing Guide](#)

[Missouri DESE: Routes to Certification](#)

# How to start teaching through alternative certification:

1



**Decide what you want to teach and choose the teaching certificate you want to earn.**

The [TEACH Missouri Certification Guide](#) has more information about your options!

2



**Make sure your subject is available through alternative certification**

Most areas, from art to science to math, are available!

3



**Apply for teaching programs and enroll**

Look for programs with the [TEACH Missouri Program Explorer!](#)

4



**Apply for teaching jobs**

You can look for jobs while you apply to teaching programs, but you will need to enroll in a program before you can get hired. You can find job boards at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [Teaching Jobs page](#).

5



**Apply for your provisional certificate**

This is a special permit that lets you teach before you're fully certified. You'll apply through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's [Certification Account Portal](#). You will need to submit a joint application with your school or employer.

6



**Complete a background check**

7



**The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will review your application.**

**Start teaching!**





# TEACH Missouri can help you apply for a job and get started on alternative certification!

Download our [free resume template](#).

Set up a [free coaching session](#) for 1:1 advice on alternative certification and choosing a program.