ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

STEP 2: APPLY FOR ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

I have been issued the Alternative Preliminary Certificate

YES

I have been offered a teaching contract at a SD public or department accredited school

YES

I have a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution of higher education.

YES

I am a current Teach For America National Teacher Corp participant?

YES

You may apply for the TFA Alternative Certification

NO

STOP

You are not eligible for Alternative Certification. Apply for an Alternative Preliminary Certificate.

NO

STOP

You must have a contracted teaching position before you can apply for the Initial Alternative Certificate.

NO

I have one of the following:
• Associate of applied science degree or higher in a related CTE field
• 4,000 hours of work experience in a related CTE field
• Hold a national certification in a related CTE field

I want to obtain a professional teacher certificate?

YES

You may apply for the CTE Alternative Certification Route

NO

You may apply for the CTE Instructor Permit

NO

YES

You may apply for the General Education or the CTE Alternative Certification Route
Select Alternative Certification Route

Eligibility Criteria
Criteria 1: Bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited university
Criteria 2: Associate of Applied Science Degree or higher in a CTE field
Criteria 3: 4,000 documented hours of work experience in a CTE field
Criteria 4: Hold a national certification in a related CTE field

General Education Alternative Certification (Criteria 1)
Allows you to Teach:
• Grades 5-8 elementary teacher
• Grades 5-12 secondary teacher
• Grades K-12 teacher

Not Allowed to Teach:
• Early Childhood Education
• Elementary self-contained K-4
• Elementary subject-specific K-4
• CTE Cluster and Pathway
• Early Childhood SPED
• K-12 SPED

Teach For America Alternative Certification (Criteria 1)
Allows you to Teach:
• Grades K-8 elementary teacher
• Grades 5-12 secondary teacher
• Grades K-12 teacher
• CTE—if the requirements for CTE alternative certification are met

Not Allowed to Teach:
• Early Childhood Education
• Elementary self-contained K-4
• Elementary subject-specific K-4

CTE Alternative Certification (Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4)
Allows you to Teach:
• Grades 7-12 CTE endorsements
• Secondary and K-12—if the requirements are met

Not Allowed to Teach:
• Early Childhood Education
• Elementary self-contained K-4
• Elementary subject-specific K-4
• Early Childhood SPED
• K-12 SPED

CTE Instructor Educator Permit (Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4)
Allows you to Receive ONLY the Following Endorsements:
• All CTE Career Pathway
• Career Cluster
• Education and Training
• Law, Public Safety, Security, & Correction

May not receive a Professional Teaching Certificate or teach any non CTE courses

Click Here for Tips to Complete Step 2—Alternative Certification Application