

ARC — Alternative Routes to Certification (online program)

DIVISION OF EDUCATION | SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



NATIONALLY RANKED — Seattle Pacific continues to be recognized as a “Best National University” by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Program Description

The Division of Education at Seattle Pacific University has been offering various alternative routes to teacher certification since 2002. Alternative Routes to Certification (ARC) graduates are developed through a combination of student teaching experience and coursework. However, the defining characteristic of SPU’s ARC teacher preparation model is a full year of student teaching.

The ARC program builds on comprehensive school-based experience and coursework, with special emphasis on recruiting current public school employees from supportive districts in Washington state.

Candidates eligible to apply to the ARC program need not be employed by a district, but may also be career changers from another profession. The goal of the ARC program is to prepare effective teachers for lifelong careers as educators in their local schools.

Eligible Candidates

- Are endorsing in at least one state or regional shortage area. Washington state shortage areas include special education, elementary, math, science, English language arts, and others. For a current list, look here (pesb.wa.gov/current-educators/educator-shortage/).
- Have earned a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Have taken the WEST-B test (or its equivalent) and at least one content area endorsement test (WEST-E/NES).
- Are able to secure two letters of recommendation: one from an administrator and another from a teacher, or, if not employed in the schools, one from a supervisor and one from someone who knows the applicant’s work with children.

Advantages

- Finish in one year — the program begins in the summer and ends in the spring
- Earn a Residency Certificate while remaining employed in a partner district or assigned to a field placement site for a full-year unpaid internship
- Flexible weekly scheduling with online coursework
- Assigned to a professional learning network (PLN) small group of peers for the duration of the program
- Completing courses specially chosen for meeting endorsement competencies
- Spending less on tuition, as a more affordable option to residency teacher certification
- Applying knowledge and experience acquired in school settings toward meeting program requirements
- Having an opportunity to earn 35+ credits toward BA+45 on the Salary Allocation Schedule

Cost

ARC is SPU’s most affordable option for attaining teacher certification. Candidates should expect to enroll in both 6000-level core classes and 5000-level Continuing Professional Education (CPE) classes, which feature lower tuition rates. Please note that 5000-level courses do not qualify for financial aid and must be paid for at the time of registration. Depending upon endorsement choices, the program is 37–47 credits and tuition runs between \$18,500–\$21,000, which is nearly half the cost of the master’s program track.*

*Candidates may be required to take additional content-area courses prior to enrolling in the program depending on their undergraduate major and chosen endorsement(s).



“My instructors and fellow students helped me to build on my strengths and correct my teaching weaknesses. What I learned about teaching and myself made the hard work, time, and sacrifice well worth the effort.”

Tom Van Duzer, Special Education Teacher
Bothell, Washington



CURRICULAR FRAMEWORK

Our curriculum is anchored by the equity framework devised by contemporary educator Dr. Gholdy Muhammad. Dr. Muhammad's model centers literacy as a broad understanding of knowledge and skills in all subjects and is built upon the forgotten but powerful Black literacy societies of the early 19th century. As Dr. Muhammad notes in her book *Cultivating Genius* (2020), society members came together to read, write, think, and learn and became empowered to envision a more just and equitable world. The framework has five layers: identity development, intellectual development, skill development, critical development, and joy. Each of the courses in our curriculum will focus on one or more of these layers and will integrate with other sociocultural, cognitive, theoretical, and practical frameworks that complement and build upon each other.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORKS

Throughout their program, students participate in a professional learning network (PLN), a small group of discipline-alike peers who provide community and peer support throughout the program. Each quarter has a topic of focus, such as supporting multilingual learners and integrating technology. At the end of internship, students make presentations within their PLNs about a profound area of growth and receive feedback from each other, faculty, and community mentors.

Admission Information

To apply for admission into the ARC program, please submit the following items and credentials:

- Graduate application form, available online at spu.edu/applynow
- Official college/university transcript(s)
- One- to two-page personal statement
- Professional résumé
- Two letters of recommendation, including one from an administrator and one from a teacher who knows your work with students. If not a school employee, one letter from a supervisor and one who knows your work with children
- Preferred WEST-B scores¹
- Passing WEST-E or NES score(s)
- Verify endorsement readiness (For information about endorsements, contact the School of Education at soe-cert@spu.edu.)
- Moral and Character Policy Form
- \$50 application fee

¹ Beginning in 2014, applicants may use SAT and ACT scores to meet part/all of the WEST-B requirements. Preferred WEST-B scores: 240 each sub-section

- Preferred SAT scores: Math 515, Reading 500, Writing 490 or Math 27.5, Reading 27, Writing 28 for tests starting 3/5/2016

If an applicant has basic skills scores lower than the preferred scores, they may submit a petition with their application.

- Preferred ACT scores: Math 22, Reading 22, Writing 8 or 23

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

Early application deadline: November 15

QUESTIONS?



For complete information about the ARC program, scan the QR code. For specific questions about the program, contact Program Coordinator Kirsten Koetje at koetjek@spu.edu. For questions regarding admission requirements, contact Graduate Admissions at 206-281-2091 or 800-601-0603 (toll free) or via email at gradadmissions@spu.edu.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Seattle Pacific University
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Seattle, WA 98119

spu.edu/graduate

For general information about the teacher certification process in the state of Washington visit ospi.k12.wa.us/certification
