

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION CHANGES

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Through recent action of the State Board of Education of the State of Washington, new guidelines and standards for programs of preparation leading to teacher certification have been developed. The Provisional General Certificate and the General Certificate which permitted teaching at all levels and which have been in use for the past ten years have been abandoned and a new provisional certificate will be issued. The new certificates will be limited to grade level and subject matter preparation for the first year of teaching. It will be necessary for students to choose the level at which they wish to teach and also to select carefully their teaching majors and teaching minors. School administrators will be expected to assign beginning teachers to those subject-matter areas in which they are qualified to teach, either through having earned a major or a minor.

The State Board of Education has suggested that the course of study leading to certification include the following:

1. General education - approximately 45 semester hours. This must include courses in English composition, health and physical education, science, humanities, and social sciences.
2. Professional education - 24 to 26 semester hours. The amount will vary some, depending upon the level of preparation.
3. Subject matter preparation - 45 semester hours. For high school preparation, the student will select a teaching major of approximately 30 semester hours and a minor of approximately 15 semester hours. Courses suitable for majors and minors are determined by the teacher training institution.
4. Electives - 14 semester hours. A Bachelor's degree requiring at least 128 semester hours must be earned by all prospective teachers prior to certification.

In addition to the basic four years of training, all Washington State teachers will be expected to complete a fifth year of education within five years.

The pattern of teacher training in agriculture will necessarily follow the guidelines rather closely. Prospective teachers of vocational agriculture will earn a minimum of 42 semester hours of credit in technical agriculture, exclusive

of courses in agricultural mechanics. Most prospective teachers will earn a teaching minor of 15 semester hours in farm mechanics. Some will also earn a minor in biological science or in physical science.

Most teachers of vocational agriculture will complete the fifth year prior to teaching experience. However, through careful planning some will qualify in four years and a summer session. A provisional certificate will be issued to beginning agriculture teachers who have completed 148 semester hours of work.

All secondary school teachers will be expected to complete a minimum of 158 semester hours and two years of successful teaching in order to be eligible for a standard certificate.

This new plan in teacher certification in the State of Washington is a result of the demand for greater emphasis on subject matter preparation for teachers, especially at the junior high school and senior high school levels of teaching.