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# Instructional Personnel

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## Professional Certification Requirements

The preparation of teachers of agriculture includes course work in three areas: 1) general education, 2) technical agriculture, and 3) professional education. To earn a professional certificate, each agriculture instructor shall meet or exceed state certification requirements. The latest certification requirements for agriculture can be located at the following (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education DESE) website:

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/schoollaw/rulesregs/EducCertManual/documents/04SecondaryEducation04-09.pdf>

## Qualifications and Classifications of Teacher Certification

The success of an instructional program can be linked to the instructor's professional education (pedagogy) in the discipline they are teaching. Certification qualifications and classifications ensure the disciplines are training teachers to meet the needs of their individual constituents. Therefore, each agriculture instructor should continuously strive to improve his/her skills and knowledge by upgrading Professional Classification and by attending professional improvement meetings, state meetings, workshops, conferences, and other sources of inservice training. The "Missouri Teachers Certification Classification and Renewals" qualify the requirements for professional classification in the state of Missouri and can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/eq/cert/teachers.html>

## Indicators of Quality Instructional Personnel

The Agriculture Education Division of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has selected the following quantitative characteristics of "Agricultural Education Instructional Personnel" (Standards and Quality Indicators for Agriculture Program Improvement, pgs. 11-12, DESE, Agricultural Education, 2001) as a benchmark to follow.

1. Instructors should be employed year-round to supervise the agriculture program.
2. All instructors are fully certified to teach agriculture.
3. Each instructor is continuing his/her professional growth through college credit courses, attendance at workshops, and other sources of inservice.
4. Each instructor is continuing his/her professional growth by attending professional development meetings, conferences, and conventions.