

New Gifted Certification Requirements QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Changes in gifted certification requirements become effective on August 1, 2017. The following are answers to some of the most common questions being asked about the new requirements.

1. Why was the gifted certification requirements changed?

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) conducted a review of all certification requirements with the intent to bring them all up to a standard that would result in a well-prepared professional teaching staff for Missouri. The gifted certification requirements were included as part of that review. It was determined that the requirements needed to be enhanced to ensure that people being certified in gifted were the most qualified people possible working with gifted students.

2. What are the new certification requirements?

General Requirements

- I. Valid Missouri Teaching Certification
- II. Two-Years of Teaching Experience
- III. The applicant must achieve a score equal to or in excess of the qualifying score on the required exit assessment(s) as defined in 5 CSR 20-400.310 and 5CSR 20-400.440. ***There currently is no exit exam for gifted certification and requirement # 3 does not apply.***

Professional Requirements (Minimum of 23 semester hours)

- I. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (two semester hours)
 - II. Gifted Content Knowledge Area – Minimum of 15 semester hours which must include:
 - a. A Survey of Gifted and Talented Education
 - b. Programming, Planning and Development: An Understanding of Administration and Supervision of Gifted Programs
 - c. Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students
 - d. Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted
 - e. Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Students
 - III. Graduate course in Research Procedures (three semester hours)
 - IV. Culminating Clinical Experience with Gifted Students (three semester hours to include both elementary and secondary settings)
3. Is a temporary authorization (TAC) or provisional certificate in gifted still an option?

Yes, if you already hold a valid Missouri professional teaching certificate, you may obtain a temporary authorization (no limitation or deficiencies) or provisional (if within 12 hours of completing the requirements) certificate in gifted. A temporary authorization certificate is a one-year, renewable certificate that requires 9 semester hours of college credit each year in order to be renewed. When the requirements are completed, the individual receives a professional certificate.

4. If I have started my coursework prior to August 1, 2017, do I have to meet the existing requirements or do I have to meet the new requirements?

If you have begun your certification coursework prior to August 1, 2017, and are on a provisional or a temporary authorization certificate under the old requirements, you would be allowed to finish the old requirements if you did so by the expiration date of your provisional or temporary authorization certificate.

However, if you started taking gifted courses without obtaining a provisional or temporary authorization certificate in gifted, you could not start taking courses and finish under the old requirements after August 1, 2017 even if you took your first course prior to August 1, 2017.