Thank you for your interest in NSU’s Alternate Certification programs. We are committed to preparing individuals who want to positively impact children’s success in the classroom.

Steps for Admission:

1. Apply for admission to the NSU Graduate School. (: https://graduateschool.nsula.edu/applying-for-admission-to-the-graduate-school/)

2. Complete and send the transcript request form found in the admission packet to all universities attended. Or, you may have an electronic transcript (E-script) sent to the TEACHNorthwestern and to the NSU Graduate School.

3. Register for and take PRAXIS CORE Reading, Writing, and Math.

   **Remember:** The Praxis CORE exams are not required if you have earned a Master’s degree, have an ACT composite score of at least 22, or an SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030.

4. Register for and take PRAXIS Content Specific test for your teaching area/grade level.

Contact Information: Northwestern State University Graduate School
123 Caspari Hall
Natchitoches LA 71497
318-357-5851

Office of Teacher Certification
Gallaspy College of Education & Human Development
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497
318-357-6144

Program details are provided in the pages that follow.
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY ALTERNATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

Persons wishing to earn Louisiana teacher certification through an Alternate Certification program may choose one of the following graduate programs. (Students must meet Graduate School admission requirements for all programs.)

1. **Practitioner Teacher Program (PREP)**

   **Option A. General Education** (21 hours) *(with Master’s degree option)*: Elementary 1-5; Middle 4-8; Secondary 6-12. Cohorts in this online program begin studies in the summer and enroll in an Internship in Teaching and Seminar during the following fall and spring semesters. This initial certification program requires 21 hours of graduate courses. (12 hours of the PREP credits may apply toward a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction.)

   **Option B. Integrated General/Special Education Mild/Moderate** (27 hours): Elementary 1-5, Middle 4-8, or Secondary 6-12. Cohorts in this online program begin studies in the Summer 1, enroll in an Internship in Teaching and Seminar during the following fall and spring semesters, then enroll in the final course in Summer 2.

   *Candidates in both PREP options must have the written guarantee of a teaching position in their certification area/grade level for the school year immediately following summer classes in order to be admitted to the Fall Internship.*

2. **Professional Studies – Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT):** (33-39 graduate hours):

   This is an online Master’s degree program which offers certification in: Early Childhood PK-3; Elementary 1-5; Middle 4-8; Secondary 6-12; Integrated General/Special Education Mild/Moderate 1-5, 4-8, or 6-12.

3. **Non-Master’s Alternate Certification:** Music Education K-12.

   NOTE: A one-year Internship is required for completion of all programs.*

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAMS:**

1. A **baccalaureate degree** from a regionally-accredited university;

2. Have a **2.5 cumulative GPA** or higher.

3. Passing scores on the **PRAXIS CORE**- Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. (PRAXIS I PPST will be accepted if passed prior to September 1, 2014.)

   (An earned Master’s degree, an ACT composite score of at least 22, or a SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030 will substitute for passing CORE or PPST scores.)

4. Passing scores on the **PRAXIS content** specific examinations in your teaching area/grade level.
   a. Candidates for Grades PK-3: pass the *Elementary Education: Content Knowledge* exam;
   b. Candidates for Grades 1-5 (general education and integrated general & special education mild/moderate grades 1-5): pass the *Elementary Education Content Knowledge* exam;
   c. Candidates for Grades 4-8 (general education and integrated general & special education mild/moderate grades 4-8): pass the *Middle School content* exam (Choose from: Math; English Language Arts; Science; Social Studies);
   d. Candidates for Grades 6-12 (general education and integrated general & special education mild/moderate grades 6-12) and K-12 (Music): pass the *PRAXIS content* exam for your certification area.

Spring 2017
**INTERNSHIP**

Candidates in all alternate certification programs are responsible for securing a full-time teaching position in their certification area in order to enroll in the two-semester Internship.

**INTERNSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY**

For each semester of the Internship, the candidate must maintain full-time employment status as teacher of record in his/her certification area, and satisfactorily perform all duties required by the employing district and school.

Attendance for each internship semester is based on the NSU academic calendar for that particular semester. The internship requires the candidate to be in attendance in the classroom for each of the two 15-week semesters. Northwestern State University policy allows for absences not in excess of ten percent of the total class meetings (7.5 days). Extended personal or medical leave of more than 2 weeks during a semester will require delaying the internship until a later semester.

**CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Certification through any of these programs also requires a passing score on a PRAXIS Pedagogy test (Principles of Learning & Teaching for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and K-12 certification; and Special Education test for Mild/Moderate Special Education certification), a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale), and completion of an Internship. Students enrolled in the MAT or non-Master’s programs must pass ALL required PRAXIS tests for their certification prior to enrolling in the Internship. PREP students take the Pedagogy tests during their Internship year.
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

PRACTITIONER TEACHER PROGRAM (PREP) – GENERAL EDUCATION

The Practitioner Teacher Program (PREP) is Louisiana’s "fast track" route to teacher certification. General Education PREP is an online program. (21 hours)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university with a 2.50 minimum GPA (4.0 scale).

2. Passing scores on PRAXIS CORE or PPST Reading, Writing, and Math tests. (CORE/PPST is waived for persons who have an earned Master’s degree, or an ACT composite score of at least 22, or a SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030.)

3. Passing score/s on PRAXIS Content test for your teaching area/grade level.

4. Prior to the first day of the Fall Internship semester, a letter of intent to employ from a public school district which guarantees a teaching position in your certification area for the school year following enrollment in PREP courses.

SUMMER:
Enroll in 9 hours of online graduate courses during the summer school session. Upon successful completion of these courses (with a minimum grade of “C”), you will receive a Practitioner License 1.

FALL and SPRING:

1. Enroll in an Internship in a Louisiana public school in the Fall and Spring semesters immediately following the summer coursework. (This is your teaching position which you secure.)

2. Enroll concurrently in an online seminar course in Fall and Spring.

3. Pass the remaining PRAXIS test/s required for your certification.

INTERNSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

For each semester of the Internship, the candidate must maintain full-time employment status as teacher of record in his/her certification area, and satisfactorily perform all duties required by the employing district and school. Attendance for each internship semester is based on the NSU academic calendar for that particular semester. The internship requires the candidate to be in attendance in the classroom for each of the two 15-week semesters. Northwestern State University policy allows for absences not in excess of ten percent of the total class meetings (7.5 days). Extended personal or medical leave of more than 2 weeks during a semester will require delaying the internship until a later semester.

Upon successful completion of all courses, Internship, and PRAXIS requirements, you will be eligible for a Level 1 Teaching Certificate. Otherwise, your practitioner license can be renewed twice.

For further information about PREP, please contact the Coordinator of Alternate Certification, Ramona Wynder, at 318-357-4058 or wynderr@nsula.edu.

Master of Education degree:

Twelve hours of PREP credits may apply toward a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. For further information about the M.Ed., contact Dr. Kimberly McAlister, Department Chair, Teaching, Leadership and Counseling (mcalisterk@nsula.edu).

Spring 2017
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
PRACTITIONER TEACHER PROGRAM (PREP) –  
INTEGRATED GENERAL/SPECIAL EDUCATION MILD/MODERATE  
The Practitioner Teacher Program (PREP) is Louisiana’s “fast track” route to teacher certification. Integrated General/Special Education Mild/Moderate PREP is an online program (27 hours).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university with a 2.50 minimum GPA (4.0 scale).
2. Passing scores on PRAXIS CORE or PPST Reading, Writing, and Math tests. (CORE/PPST is waived for persons who have an earned Master’s degree, or an ACT composite score of at least 22, or a SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030.)
3. Passing score/s on PRAXIS Content test for your teaching area/grade level.
4. Prior to the first day of the Fall Internship semester, a letter of intent to employ from a public school district which guarantees a teaching position in your certification area for the school year following enrollment in PREP courses.

SUMMER 1:

Enroll in 12 hours of online graduate courses during the summer school session. Upon successful completion of these courses (with a minimum grade of “C”), you will receive a Practitioner License 1.

FALL and SPRING:

1. Enroll in an Internship in a Louisiana public school in the Fall and Spring semesters immediately following the summer coursework. (This is your teaching position which you secure.)
2. Enroll concurrently in an online seminar course in Fall and Spring.
3. Pass the remaining PRAXIS test/s required for your certification.

INTERNSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

For each semester of the Internship, the candidate must maintain full-time employment status as teacher of record in his/her certification area, and satisfactorily perform all duties required by the employing district and school.

Attendance for each internship semester is based on the NSU academic calendar for that particular semester. The internship requires the candidate to be in attendance in the classroom for each of the two 15-week semesters. Northwestern State University policy allows for absences not in excess of ten percent of the total class meetings (7.5 days). Extended personal or medical leave of more than 2 weeks during a semester will require delaying the internship until a later semester.

SUMMER 2:

Enroll in a 3-hour online graduate course.

Upon successful completion of all courses, Internship, and PRAXIS requirements, you will be eligible for a Level 1 Teaching Certificate. Otherwise, your practitioner license can be renewed twice.

For further information about PREP, please contact the Coordinator of Alternate Certification, Ramona Wynder, at 318-357-4058 or wynderr@nsula.edu.

Spring 2017
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING DEGREE - MAT

This is a traditional master’s degree which is offered online and leads to teacher certification in Louisiana.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university with a 2.50 minimum GPA (on a 4.0 scale).

2. Passing scores on PRAXIS CORE or PPST Reading, Writing, and Math tests. (PRAXIS CORE/PPST are waived for persons who have an earned Master’s degree, or an ACT composite score of at least 22, or a SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030.)

3. Passing score on PRAXIS Content test for your teaching area/grade level.

NOTE: The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for enrollment in the MAT; a passing score on the PRAXIS content test is accepted in lieu of the GRE.

ENROLLMENT:

Eligible candidates receive a “Prescription of Study” and course rotation, and may begin coursework either in Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters. You will be assigned an academic advisor who will assist with scheduling the required courses.

Once admitted to the MAT program, you are eligible for employment by a public school district in Louisiana and may teach on a Practitioner License 3 for a total of 4 years, if yearly renewal requirements are met (completion of 9 hours of MAT coursework per year).

INTERNSHIP IN TEACHING:

Upon completion of all coursework, and successfully passing the PRAXIS II Pedagogy tests, you will enroll in a one-year Internship in Teaching. This is your teaching position which you secure in your certification area. The Internship MUST be completed in a public school in Louisiana.

INTERNSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

For each semester of the Internship, the candidate must maintain full-time employment status as teacher of record in his/her certification area, and satisfactorily perform all duties required by the employing district and school.

Attendance for each internship semester is based on the NSU academic calendar for that particular semester. The internship requires the candidate to be in attendance in the classroom for each of the two 15-week semesters. Northwestern State University policy allows for absences not in excess of ten percent of the total class meetings (7.5 days). Extended personal or medical leave of more than 2 weeks during a semester will require delaying the internship until a later semester.

Upon successful completion of all courses, Internship, and PRAXIS requirements, you will graduate with a Master of Education degree and be eligible for a Level 1 Teaching Certificate.

Spring 2017
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Non-Master’s Alternate Certification Program in Music Education

This program leads to Louisiana teacher certification in Music Education Grades K-12.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university with a 2.50 minimum GPA (on a 4.0 scale).
2. Passing scores on PRAXIS CORE or PPST Reading, Writing, and Math tests.
   (PRAXIS CORE/PPST are waived for persons who have an earned Master’s degree, or an ACT composite score of at least 22, or a SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030.)
3. Passing score on PRAXIS Music Content test.

ENROLLMENT:

Eligible candidates receive a “Prescription of Study”, and may begin coursework either in Fall, Spring, or Summer semesters. You will be assigned an academic advisor who will assist with scheduling the required courses.

Once admitted to the program, you are eligible for employment by a public school district in Louisiana and may teach on a Practitioner License 2 for a total of 3 years, if yearly renewal requirements are met (completion of 9 hours of certification coursework per year).

INTERNSHIP IN TEACHING:

Upon completion of all coursework, and successfully passing the PRAXIS II Pedagogy tests, you will enroll in a one-year Internship in Teaching. This is your teaching position which you secure in your certification area. The Internship MUST be completed in a public school in Louisiana.

INTERNSHIP ATTENDANCE POLICY

For each semester of the Internship, the candidate must maintain full-time employment status as teacher of record in his/her certification area, and satisfactorily perform all duties required by the employing district and school.

Attendance for each internship semester is based on the NSU academic calendar for that particular semester. The internship requires the candidate to be in attendance in the classroom for each of the two 15-week semesters. Northwestern State University policy allows for absences not in excess of ten percent of the total class meetings (7.5 days). Extended personal or medical leave of more than 2 weeks during a semester will require delaying the internship until a later semester.

Upon successful completion of all courses, Internship, and PRAXIS requirements, you will be eligible for a Level 1 Teaching Certificate.

Spring 2017
**PRAXIS Information**

PRAXIS test preparation resources are available at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org), or Google “PRAXIS help”.

The list of current PRAXIS CORE and PRAXIS II TESTS required for program admission and certification may be found at: [https://www.teachlouisiana.net/teachers.aspx?PageID=5605](https://www.teachlouisiana.net/teachers.aspx?PageID=5605).

**PRAXIS tests required for admission to an alternate certification program:**

PRAXIS CORE: **READING, WRITING, and MATH** tests. (Note: An earned Master’s degree, an ACT composite score of at least 22, or an SAT combined reading and math score of at least 1030 will substitute for passing PPST/CORE scores. PRAXIS I PPST Reading, Writing, and Math scores are accepted if passed prior to 9/1/14.)

PRAXIS II **Subject/Content test:**
A passing score on the test in your teaching content area and/or grade level is required for admission to all Alternate Certification programs.

**PRAXIS II test/s required for enrollment in the Internship in Teaching:**

PRAXIS II **Pedagogy tests:**
A passing score on the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test appropriate to the certification level (AND the Special Education test for Mild/Moderate Special Education candidates) is required for admission to Internship for MAT and Non-Masters Music Education candidates and for certification for PREP students.

**PRAXIS II test required for certification through PREP:**
A passing score on the PRAXIS II Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) is required for certification for all PREP candidates. The PRAXIS II Reading test (0204) is required for Level 1 certification for Elementary 1-5 Practitioner Teacher candidates.

**Scheduling PRAXIS tests:**

Register through the ETS website: www.ets.org.

**Natchitoches testing site:**
Northwestern State University, Kyser Hall Room 401G, ph: 318-357-5246

**Alexandria testing site:**
LSUA, 191 Middleton Dr., Alexandria LA, ph: 318-767-3972

**Bossier City testing site:**
Prometric Testing Center 4350 Viking Dr., Bossier City LA, ph: 318-742-7349

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**When registering for PRAXIS tests, please:**
1) List NSU (code 6492) and the Louisiana Department of Education (code 7330) as score recipients;

2) Be sure to put your SSN on your PRAXIS registration form/s so you will be “matched” at the Louisiana Department of Education.

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Spring 2017
TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

PLEASE MAIL DIRECTLY TO YOUR REGISTRAR’S OFFICE

Date: _________________________

To: Registrar

________________________________________________
University

________________________________________________
Address

Please send an official copy of my transcript to:

NSU College of Education
Office of Teacher Certification
150 Tarlton Dr.
Natchitoches LA 71497

I attended your university under the name ________________________________.

Social Security number ____________________. Date of birth__________________.

Attendance dates_________________________. Undergraduate____Graduate____

Transcripts should be sent after final grades are recorded. I have enclosed $_______ to cover the cost of the transcript.

_____________________________________
Signature

____________________________________
Address

__________________________________
City                       State                      Zip

NOTE: Most colleges/universities require advance payment for transcripts. You should contact them for the cost and attach payment to this transcript request.

NOTE: Official transcripts are required from EACH institution attended, regardless of whether the credits appear on another school’s transcript.