



TWO ROUTES TO LICENSURE

Department of Education

*Master of Arts in Teaching Program
Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Education Program (Licensure-Only)*

Traditional (Student Teaching) Route

CBU students who take the traditional route to licensure will take professional education courses for three/four semesters (summer is a semester), and then perform student teaching in their last fall/spring semester, for a total of five semesters in the program.

Student teaching is similar to an unpaid apprenticeship; it is defined by the state of Tennessee as a significant experience in classroom responsibility while being guided, supported, mentored, and supervised. Student teachers are assigned cooperating teachers with whom they will teach Monday-Friday, all school day. Student Teaching is performed for 16 weeks (one semester), all school day (approximately 7am-4pm). The coursework student teachers take in their last semester is *Portfolio/Practicum III* (a one credit hour course) and *Student Teaching* (a four credit hour course).

CBU requests placements in public, private, city and county schools for student teachers, and candidate's preferences are taken into account. After the successful completion of student teaching as well as other requirements for licensure (including passage of Praxis II tests), CBU then recommends students for a Tennessee teaching license.

Transitional (Intern Teaching) Route

The transitional route is for those who have obtained a job as teacher of record in a school system but are not fully licensed teachers yet. School systems typically hire people in this situation for areas of high need; most of the time these areas are a subject (like Math or Science) in a high school or, increasingly, Special Education. It is rare that a public school system will hire someone to teach in a PreK-6 classroom if they are not already fully licensed.

If you are interested in applying to teach in a school system on a transitional license, you will need to go through that school system's recruitment and hiring process. Please contact the Human Resources Department for the school system. People who have already gained admission to a Teacher Education Program (T.E.P.) like the ones we have at CBU (Master of Arts in Teaching or Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Education Program) and who have already passed the Praxis II licensure test for Content Knowledge in the area they wish to teach are typically more attractive/eligible for hire. After you are hired, your school system will request several pieces of information, including a letter of acceptance to a TEP Program and a Program of Study. Your school system will then apply to the state of Tennessee for your transitional license.

CBU students who take the transitional route to licensure are assigned a university supervisor who will visit their classroom several times each semester. Students who take the transitional route to licensure must also take a 0 credit hour supervision course for each fall and spring semester (\$625 fee per course). In their last fall/spring semester in the CBU Teacher Education Program, their university supervisor will increase the number and level of visits (CBU calls this Intern Teaching). The coursework intern teachers take in their last semester is *Portfolio/Practicum III* (a one credit hour course) and *Intern Teaching* (a 0 credit hour course).

After the successful completion of intern teaching as well as other requirements for licensure (including the passage of Praxis II tests), CBU then recommends students for a Tennessee teaching license, to be awarded at the end of the student's transitional licensure period. Transitional licenses are reviewed for re-application/advancement to apprentice level in July of each year. A transitional license can only be renewed twice (for a total of three academic years), so all transitional licensure candidates must complete their Teacher Education Program within three years.

NOTE: No matter what route students take, their last semester must be either Fall or Spring, when K-12 schools are in full session and Student/Intern Teaching can be performed. If students find themselves with an extra summer before student/intern teaching, many use that summer to take courses for an additional endorsement.