

Requirements & Routes to Virginia Teacher Licensure

Requirement 1
Undergraduate Degree

Requirement 2
Professional Studies
(Provided by a Licensing Program and qualifies for TTT stipend)

Requirement 3
Professional Teacher's Assessments
(Qualifies for TTT stipend)

Traditional Routes

Alternative Route

*This chart describes options for a teacher candidate possessing a minimum Bachelor's degree. An individual who does **NOT** possess a BA/BS degree would enroll/transfer into a teacher preparation college or university offering a Bachelor's degree with licensure in the desired endorsement or content area. A list of Virginia's teacher preparation programs is available at VA Department of Education (VDOE) website www.teachvirginia.org.*

Route 1

LICENSURE ONLY (LO)

A Licensure Only program is for individuals who have completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and wish to qualify for an initial Virginia teaching license. The required amount of course work varies by institution program. It usually consists of approximately 15 to 30 semester hours and includes Student Teaching. Please note, if the required content course work on the undergraduate transcripts is lacking, those deficient courses will be added to the 15 – 30 semester hours listed above. Upon completion, the 5-year renewable COLLEGIATE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE (CPL) from Virginia Department of Education is awarded. **Approximately 1-year to complete**

Route 2

MASTER'S OF EDUCATION (M.ED.) OR MASTER'S OF ARTS IN TEACHING (M.A.T.) WITH LICENSURE

A Master's in Education (M. Ed.) with licensure is for individuals who have completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and wish to obtain a M.Ed. in addition to their initial Virginia teaching license (licensure-only requirements). The professional studies requirements and Student Teaching are incorporated into the M. Ed. curriculum. This usually consists of approximately 30+ semester hours plus the supervised classroom experience. Please note, if the required content course work on the undergraduate transcripts is lacking, those deficient courses will be added to the requirements listed above. Upon completion, the 5-year renewable POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL LICENSE (PPL) from Virginia Department of Education is awarded. **Approximately up to 2-years to complete**

Route 3

Alternative Options

CAREER SWITCHER PROGRAM (CSP)

CSP is designed for individuals from various occupations and life experiences to become classroom teachers, thereby increasing the quantity and diversity of applicants to the profession. This program consists of professional studies requirements taught in an intense classroom environment and does not have a student teaching requirement. To gain entrance to these programs, one must have completed 5 years of professional experience, may be required to complete coursework for the content area, and have qualifying scores on the professional teacher examinations. Completers will receive a 1-year eligibility license from Virginia Department of Education. **6 weeks to 9 months to complete**

PROVISIONAL LICENSE (PL)

The PL is a nonrenewable license **VALID FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 3 YEARS. ISSUED ONLY ONCE**, to an individual who has allowable deficiencies for full licensure as set forth in VDOE regulations. The individual must have a minimum of an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited college or university (except for those seeking the TPL). A PL is obtained through an **EMPLOYING EDUCATIONAL AGENCY ONLY**. You may apply for a position at a school, and upon hire, the school will ask Virginia Department of Education to issue you a Provisional License.

TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSE (TPL)

The Technical Professional License is a **5-YEAR, RENEWABLE LICENSE** available to a person who has graduated from an accredited high school (or possesses a GED certificate);

- (1) has exhibited academic proficiency
- (2) skills in literacy and communication,
- (3) technical competency,
- (4) occupational experience
- (5) completed 9 semester hours of specialized professional studies credit from a regionally accredited college or university.

In addition to demonstrating competency in the endorsement sought, the individual must:

- Hold a license issued by the appropriate Virginia board for those program areas requiring a license and a minimum of 2 yrs of satisfactory experience at the journeyman level or an equivalent;
- Have completed a registered apprenticeship program and 2 yrs of satisfactory experience at the journeyman level or equivalent level in trade, or
- Have 4 yrs of work experience at the management or supervisory level or equivalent or have a combination of 4 yrs of training and work experience at the management of supervisory level or equivalent.

THE TPL IS ISSUED AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF AN EMPLOYING EDUCATIONAL AGENCY in the areas of career and technical education, educational technology, and military science. Individuals seeking military science must have the appropriate credentials issued by the United States military.