



**TEACH TODAY.**  
CHANGE TOMORROW.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A TEACHER?

If you're interested in becoming a teacher in Tennessee, it's important to understand the state's process for getting a teaching license. In Tennessee, the first teaching license that early-career teachers receive is called the Practitioner License.

The chart below will give you a general idea of the steps to obtain a Practitioner License in Tennessee. It's important to remember that licensure requirements differ by state, and the process to apply for a teaching license in Tennessee is a bit different if you've already been certified to teach in another state. If you have questions, visit the Tennessee Department of Education website for more information. If you already have a bachelor's degree, this process typically takes one to two years.

### STEP 1

#### Minimum Education: Bachelor's Degree / Educator Preparation Program (EPP)

To become a licensed teacher in Tennessee, the state requires that all applicants hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and complete a state-approved educator preparation program. This can be achieved by majoring in education/completing an EPP as an undergraduate, or by completing an EPP through an alternative program after graduating with a bachelor's degree.

- 💡 For a list of regionally accredited colleges and universities in Tennessee, [click here](#).
- 💡 For a list of state-approved EPPs and more information about admission requirements, [click here](#).

### STEP 2

#### State Licensing Test(s)

To become a licensed teacher in Tennessee, you must complete the required state licensing test(s). Your EPP can help you determine which test(s) are necessary for the grade level and subject matter you want to teach.

- 💡 For more information about required state licensing tests, [click here](#).

### STEP 3

#### Getting Your License

Applications are submitted by an educator preparation provider on behalf of the teacher candidate. After the application is submitted, you will be asked to submit additional information before the license is issued.

*(Note: This process looks different for out-of-state candidates and those applying for an occupational license.)*

- 💡 For more information about the Practitioner License, [click here](#).

### STEP 4

#### Apply for Jobs!

Your EPP can help you determine where to start looking based on your desired location, subject area and grade level.