



New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey - A partnership between New Jersey City University  
and New Jersey Community Colleges



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NPTNJ Alternate Route to Teacher Certification

1. Why should I choose the NPTNJ alternate route program?
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3. How does NPTNJ differ from the Traditional Route and the Regional Alternate Route programs?
4. How do I know if I am a good candidate for this program?
5. What is the difference between the non-credit certification only option and the graduate- credit option?
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9. I'm going to be on vacation. How many classes may I miss?
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15. How do I get a transcript?
16. Will I need the 20 days of intensive mentoring?
17. When are the classes offered?
18. Will you help me find a job?
19. Can I teach in a private or charter school?
20. Can I change from the non-credit option to the graduate-credit option?
21. Is there homework involved?
22. Can I skip Stage I and start Stage II if I already have teaching experience?
23. Can I get financial assistance for this program?
24. Can I transfer to another participating community college after I've started the program?

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**1. How does NPTNJ differ from the Traditional Route and the Regional Alternate Route programs?**

Comparison:	Traditional Route	Regional Training Center Alternate Route	NPTNJ Alternate Route
<b>Coursework</b>	30 credits Bachelors or Masters level including student teaching	200 hours at Regional Training Centers while teaching full time in a provisional teaching position  Additional requirement for teachers holding an elementary and middle school certification: 45-hour course in teaching literacy and 45-hour course in teaching math during provisional teaching year	225 hrs at community colleges statewide in two stages:  Stage I: 45 hours of evening classes and 15 hours of structured classroom observation. A provisional teaching position not required.  Stage II: A provisional teaching job is required. 165 hours of evening coursework  <b>Graduate-credit option: Earn up to 15 credits toward numerous NJCU education Masters Degrees.</b>  Additional requirement for teachers holding an elementary and middle school certification: 45-hour course in teaching literacy and 45-hour course in teaching math during provisional teaching year  <b>All students are required to maintain a "B" average throughout the program.</b>
<b>Coursework Schedule</b>	Prior to full-time teaching	September – June	Stage I: Classes offered winter, spring summer, typically in January, April and June Stage II: September-June  Stage I completion is a requirement for admission to Stage II.
<b>Teaching component</b>	As specified in degree requirements	One year including 20 days with intensive mentor & 30 weeks mentor	One year including 30 weeks mentor
<b>Cost</b>	Variable tuition charges of the educational institution	See Department of Education website	Request current fees from community college
<b>Certificate required to seek teaching employment</b>	Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)	Certificate of Eligibility (CE)	Certificate of Eligibility (CE)
<b>License issued for first year of employment</b>	Provisional License	Provisional License	Provisional License
<b>License earned at end of first</b>	Standard License	Standard License	Standard License

qualifying (full time) year of employment			
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**2. Why should I choose the NPTNJ alternate route program?**

NPTNJ is unique due to the partnership between New Jersey City University (NJCU) and participating NJ Community Colleges. Following are six reasons why NPTNJ is an excellent choice 1. Earn up to 15 credits toward numerous NJCU Masters degrees 2. NPTNJ is conveniently offered at 15 community colleges 3. Stage I may be taken before a teaching job is secured enabling the teacher to enter the classroom with confidence 4. Stage I takes the place of the 20 days of intensive mentoring required in other alternate route programs. 5. NPTNJ has gained an excellent reputation with school districts for preparing alternate route teachers. 6. A cohort of classmates will provide a support system throughout the first year of teaching.

**3. What does the program cost?**

Tuition and text costs change each year. For current information contact your community college liaison.

**4. How do I know if I am a good candidate for this program?**

A candidate for this program must be someone who is committed to education and making a difference in the life of a child. Candidates must be ready to commit to the intensity of this fast-tracked program and interested in the intellectual stimulation of a graduate-level program. Experience as a substitute teacher, teaching assistant, tutor, etc. are all beneficial experiences in preparation for a teaching career. You must have a BS, BA or higher degree and a minimum GPA of 2.75 to participate in this program.

**5. What is the difference between the non-credit certification only option and the graduate-credit option?**

There is no difference in the classroom experience; all coursework including assignments and reading are identical. The difference is the higher fees for the awarding of New Jersey City University graduate credits upon completion of the program.

**6. What are the admission requirements for Stage I and Stage II?**

Stage I

- BA, BS or higher degree with a minimum GPA of 2.75
- Certificate of Eligibility (CE)

Note: To obtain a CE the applicant must pass the Praxis II exam (tests for area content knowledge; see [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis)) and complete an Introduction to Teaching 24-hour Pre-service Program, available at most community colleges.

Stage II

- Complete Stage I with a minimum grade of B
- Provisional teaching job in area of CE

**7. How do I get a Certificate of Eligibility (CE)?**

Apply online at [www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license](http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license); pay the appropriate fees online when applying. To complete your DOE application you will be required to mail an official college transcript for all colleges attended, a copy of passing Praxis II score, an original Introduction to Teaching 24-hour Pre-service Program Completion Certificate, and a notarized Oath of Allegiance downloaded from DOE website.

**8. How do I check on the status of my CE application?**

Once your DOE online application has been processed you may check the status of your application by choosing "CHECK APPLICATION STATUS" on the DOE website at [https://www6.state.nj.us/DOE\\_TCIS\\_ASC/pages/appStatusSearch.jsp](https://www6.state.nj.us/DOE_TCIS_ASC/pages/appStatusSearch.jsp)

**9. I'm going on vacation. How many classes may I miss?**

Vacations during the program are strongly discouraged and should be cleared with the community college liaison before registering for the program. Every class is of great importance and 100% attendance is expected. If there is a justified absence during the program, the student should coordinate with the instructor to complete any missed hours and class work.

**10. What is the course content of Stage I and II?**

Courses which will appear on the NJCU transcript are listed below. Only students registered for graduate credit will receive a transcript. Course content is identical for credit and non-credit students.

Stage I Classroom Management (EDU 500) and Curriculum and Methods (EDU 645)

Stage II Learning and Motivation (EDU 628); Reading and the School Curriculum (LTED 641); Educational Assessment (EDU 693); Student Teaching Internship and Seminar (EDU 652)

Additional information can be found at [www.nptnj.org](http://www.nptnj.org) (New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey website).

**11. If I finish Stage I can I continue in Stage II another year?**

Yes. Stage I does not expire.

**12. Can I continue in the program if I don't have a job in September?**

No. You must have a provisional teaching position in the area of your CE to enroll in Stage II. This means you are the "teacher of record".

**13. What are the criteria for a teaching position?**

The position must be the "teacher of record", either full or part-time (minimum 15 hours/week) in a public, private, or charter school that is accredited by the State of New Jersey. The hiring school district is required to register the teacher in the Provisional Teaching Program (PTP) when employment begins.

You can enter Stage II with a "long term" temporary position if 1) you are the "teacher of record" in the area of your CE 2) the position lasts through the end of January 3) the district will enroll you in the PTP.

**14. If I have completed the program, will I get my Standard License at the end of the year?**

It is the responsibility of your school district to process the needed paperwork with the DOE to recommend you for a Standard (permanent) License. You have two years to log the required hours to qualify for your Standard License.

**15. How do I get a transcript?**

Credit students may contact the registrar's office at New Jersey City University or go through the web portal GothicNet. Non-credit students do not receive a transcript. Contact information is as follows:

Telephone: 201-200-3333

E-mail: [registrar@njcu.edu](mailto:registrar@njcu.edu)

Fax: 201-200-2062

**16. Will I need the 20 days of intensive mentoring?**

No. NPTNJ Stage I replaces the 20 days of intensive mentoring.

**17. When are the classes offered?**

Please refer to the community college website for specific class dates and times.

**18. Will you help me find a job?**

The college does not help students find employment.

**19. Can I teach in a private or charter school?**

Yes. However the school must be approved by the NJ DOE and willing to enroll you in the Provisional Teacher Program (PTP).

**20. Can I change from the non-credit to the graduate-credit option?**

Yes. You may change options until the start of Stage I, between Stage I and II, and again until October 25 during Stage II. Retroactive credit is never given.

**21. Is there homework involved?**

Yes. There are assignments that must be completed outside of the classroom instructional period.

**22. Can I skip Stage I and start Stage II if I already have teaching experience?**

No. You must complete Stage I before entering Stage II.

**23. Can I get financial assistance for this program?**

There is no financial aid through the community colleges. Students may seek private loans. Stage II credit students must matriculate at NJCU to be eligible for NJCU financial aid.

**24. Can I transfer to another participating community college after I've started the program?**

You may transfer to another community college only between Stage I and Stage II.

## REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

**25. Where do I send the NPTNJ application?**

Send your application and required documentation to your community college liaison.

**26. How many Official transcripts do I send and to whom?**

A combined total of four official transcripts from all colleges attended are required for the NPTNJ application and the CE application. If you have a CE only three official transcripts are required. Transcripts may be sent directly from your university to your community college (address above). Please advise the college liaison if your transcripts are in another name than on your application form.

**27. If I sign up for Stage I non-credit can I opt for graduate-credit for Stage II?**

Yes, but you will not receive retroactive credit for Stage I.

## QUALIFICATION/CERTIFICATION QUESTIONS

**28. What certifications are available in New Jersey?**

Please refer to the New Jersey Department Of Education website at [www.NJDOE.gov](http://www.NJDOE.gov)

**29. What academic major do I need for my certification?**

Please refer to the New Jersey Department Of Education website at [www.NJDOE.gov](http://www.NJDOE.gov)

The NJDOE will review your transcripts to check that you have the appropriate coursework to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility. NPTNJ **does not do this evaluation.**

**30. I already passed the Praxis II in a certain subject area, but I don't have the required credits on my transcript. Can I still get a Certificate of Eligibility in that area?**

No. A Certificate of Eligibility requires BOTH a passing Praxis II score and the appropriate number of credits on your transcript.

**31. What grades can I teach with a Subject Area Certification such as math?**

With a subject area CE you may teach that subject K-12.

**32. What if I have a degree from outside the United States?**

You will need to have you transcript evaluated. See NJ DOE website for a complete listing of agencies.

**33. When do I get my Provisional License? Standard License? How long can I use a Provisional License?**

The school district where you are employed must register you for your Provisional License when you begin teaching.

Your Provisional License should arrive sometime in the Fall. You may be recommended for your Standard License after one year of full-time teaching and successful completion of the alternate route academic program. A Provisional License is valid for two years.

**34. How long is the CE valid? Does it expire?**

The CE is not a license and does not have an expiration date.

**35. Can I use a GPA that is higher than 2.75 from a Masters Degree even though I don't have a 2.75 in my Bachelors Degree?**

Yes.

**36. I graduated before September 1, 2004 with a 2.5 GPA meeting the state's GPA requirement for a CE. Why can't I enter the NPTNJ program?**

NPTNJ admission requires a 2.75 GPA no matter when the degree was conferred.

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## EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONS

**37. How can I find a job? Where do I look for job openings?**

You may find job postings listed on the NPTNJ website [www.nptnj.org](http://www.nptnj.org), [www.NJHire.com](http://www.NJHire.com), [www.NJSchooljob.com](http://www.NJSchooljob.com), and through your county superintendent's office.

**38. Will principals want to hire an alternate route candidate? Don't they hire traditional candidates first?**

While some districts hire traditional candidates first, they also value the work experience and maturity that alternate route candidates bring to the job. It is an incentive for districts to hire NPTNJ alternate route candidates because the four weeks intensive mentoring requirement has been met by Stage I.

**39. What if I don't have a job before September?**

Many school districts hire right up until and even after the beginning of school. Many positions become available in August and September.

**40. Can I look for a job if I don't have my CE?**

Yes, however you must inform your potential employer that your CE is in process. You cannot sign a contract without a CE.

**41. How much do teachers get paid? How does the salary scale work?**

Beginning teacher salaries vary greatly between school districts. The usual range is between \$30-47,000. Private and charter schools pay less than public schools. Taking the program for 15 graduate credits, depending on the school district, **may** result in higher salary increases after your first year of teaching. Most districts pay more if you hold a master's degree and some may start you on a higher step if you teach a subject where teachers are hard to find.

**42. Does my teaching position have to be the same area as my CE?**

Yes.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMANENT CERTIFICATION

**43. Are there any additional requirements I must fulfill to receive my Standard License?**

If you hold a CE in elementary education you must take a DOE approved 45-hour course in the teaching of literacy and a 45-hour course in the teaching of math during your provisional teaching year. This includes teachers who hold an elementary education with specialization CE. Teachers who hold a subject area CE are not required to take these courses even if they are teaching at the elementary or middle school level **provided they are teaching only that subject**.

