# A GUIDE TO ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAMS FOR PROSPECTIVE ARTS EDUCATORS IN NJ


**assembled by**

ARTS ED NJ

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**with information from**
**NJDOE**


*This guide intends to compile information from the NJDOE and outside resources to give prospective educators an overview of the pathways available to them. Please refer to the NJDOE webpages (linked throughout) when completing the Alternate Route Program.

*Information valid as of 10/06/26*

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# FIND YOUR ALTERNATE ROUTE PATHWAY

**Do you have a bachelor's degree in your arts discipline?**
(Art, Music, Dance, Speech Arts, or Theater)

## Yes, or higher

**What was your GPA?**

### 3.00+

**2.75+ and I graduated before 9/1/16**

**Eligible for CE Alternate Route Program**
(pg. 4)

### 2.5-2.99

**Eligible for Limited CE Alternate Route Program**
(pg. 6)

## No, but I have an associate's degree and/or 4+ years of industry experience.

**Is your discipline or desired subject listed below?**

- Audio Technology
- Audio-Visual Broadcast Production Technology
- Commercial Photography
- Design and Applied Arts
- Fashion Design
- Interactive Media
- Vocational Arts: Dance
- Vocational Arts: Theater

### Yes

**Eligible for Career & Technical Education (CTE) Alternate Route Program**
(pg.8)

### No

# KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

## Career & Technical Education (CTE)

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) offers instructional certificates that authorize the holder of the certificate to teach within public schools that offer NJDOE-approved CTE programs of study. CTE programs of study are secondary programs that prepare students to enter postsecondary education, training, and employment in high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations. Teachers of approved CTE programs of study must hold a CTE certificate issued by the NJDOE.

## Certificate of Eligibility (CE)

Issued to an individual who has not completed a teacher preparation program but meets the basic requirements for certification, including **academic study** and **applicable test requirements**. The CE authorizes an individual to seek and accept employment in New Jersey public schools requiring certification.

## Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS)

Issued to an individual who has completed a teacher preparation program and met requirements for certification, including academic study and applicable test requirements. The CEAS authorizes an individual to seek and accept employment in New Jersey public schools requiring certification.

An individual who does not hold a New Jersey Standard certificate or completed **two years of full-time teaching under a valid out-of-state instructional certificate** can apply for a CEAS.

## Certificate of Eligibility Educator Preparation Program (CE EPP)

Includes a 50 hour of pre-professional experience and 350 hours/credits of formal instruction at a Certificate of Eligibility Program Provider. The candidate must provide the district with documentation of enrollment in an approved CE EPP along with the completed 50-Hour Verification of Completion form.

## CTE Career Clusters

Include a variety of careers that share similar knowledge, skills, and interests. The National Career Clusters Framework serves as an organizing tool for CTE programs of study, curriculum design, and instruction.

## CTE Endorsements

Connects CTE Career Clusters, which are various careers that share similar knowledge, skills, and interests, to CTE Programs.

The CTE endorsement code entitles the holder to teach in NJDOE-approved CTE courses in the programs of study under the following Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes. All VPA codes begin with 50.####.

Contact the CTE office for endorsement specifications not linked.

# KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

## Instructional Endorsement Specifications

*a.k.a. Subject Endorsement*
Authorizes the teacher to teach their desired subject in NJ public schools. Endorsement codes are used to identify the Praxis Subject test(s) the candidate must register for on praxis.ets.org

## NJEdCert

The portal through which aspiring and current NJ educators manage their licenses, apply for certifications, and renew certifications.

In your account you can submit questions and communicate directly with customer service staff.

## Praxis Core Test

*a.k.a. Basic Skills Assessment, Praxis I Assessment.*
Test that measures reading, writing, and mathematics skills as well as the content knowledge of those entering teacher preparation programs.
*Only required for those in the Limited CE/CEAS Program (as of Jan 1, 2025)

## Praxis Subject Test

*a.k.a. Praxis II Assessment.*
Test that measures the deep understanding, knowledge, and skills a beginning K-12 educator must have in their subject. Most of the tests are computer delivered. They range from 1-4 hours long and include selected-response questions, essays, constructed-response questions, or a combination of question types.

## Provisional Teacher Process (PTP)

School-based training and evaluation program provided during the initial years of teaching in New Jersey.
The following must be completed while employed:

- Mentoring (30+ weeks by a certified teacher in district)
- Evaluation (must receive 2 effective+ ratings in 3 summative years)
- Formal Instruction (completion of a CE EPP)

## Limited CE

Issued to an individual who has not completed a teacher preparation program but meets the basic requirements for certification, including academic study and applicable test requirements.
Like a CE however, the candidate may be waived from exactly one of the following requirements:

- Minimum number of subject-matter course content credits;
- Minimum required grade point average (GPA);*
- Passing score on New Jersey state-approved Praxis subject-matter assessments.*

The CE authorizes an individual to seek and accept employment in New Jersey public schools requiring certification.

# CE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

Create an NJEdCert account and submit an application for a CE

**1 Degree Requirements** (must meet all 3)

- ☐ Minimum of a bachelor's degree
- ☐ GPA of 3.00+ (2.75+ if you graduated before 9/1/2016)
- ☐ At least 30 semester hour credits in your desired subject (at least 12/30 must be at the junior, senior, or graduate level)

**2 Select your subject endorsement***

| ART | DANCE | MUSIC | SPEECH ARTS | THEATER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5134 | N/A | 5113 | 5221 & 5641 | 5641 |

**Create a Praxis ETS account to register for your Praxis Subject Test(s) with the following test code(s) praxis.ets.org**

**$130 per subject test**

☐ Pass Praxis Subject Test(s)

*Subject area degree requirement breakdowns are available on pg. 15

# CE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

## 3 Physiology and Hygiene Requirement
(complete 1 option)

- Present evidence of basic military training. ○
- Complete a course such as biology, health or nutrition that appears on college or university transcript. ○
- Complete an online test. You must have a tracking number and an application on file to take this test. ○
  - Study Guide
  - Register for an online test

☐ Complete and submit your application for a CE

**The fee for a Certificate of Eligibility is $170**

# LIMITED CE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

Create an NJEdCert account and submit an application for a CE

## 1 Degree Requirements

- ☐ Minimum of a bachelor's degree *(must meet)*

*(must meet 2 out of 3)*

- ☐ At least 30 semester hour credits in your desired subject (at least 12/30 must be at the junior, senior, or graduate level)
- ☐ GPA of 3.00+ (2.75+ if you graduated before 9/1/2016)
- ☐ Passing score on the Praxis Subject Test (below)

**if waived, GPA still must be between 2.5-2.99*

## 2 Select your subject endorsement

| ART | DANCE | MUSIC | SPEECH ARTS | THEATER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5134 | N/A | 5113 | 5221 & 5641 | 5641 |

**Create a Praxis ETS account to register for your Praxis Subject Test(s) with the following test code(s) praxis.ets.org**

**$130 per subject test**

- ☐ Pass Praxis Subject Test(s)

# LIMITED CE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

**3 Praxis Basic Skills Assesment**

- Pass the Praxis Core Combined Test (5752)
  - Passing Scores
    Reading: 156, Math: 150
    Writing: 162

**4 Physiology and Hygiene Requirement**
(complete 1 option)

- Present evidence of basic military training.
- Complete a course such as biology, health or nutrition that appears on college or university transcript.
- Complete an online test. You must have a tracking number and an application on file to take this test.
  - Study Guide
  - Register for an online test

- Complete and submit your application for a Limited CE

**The fee for a Certificate of Eligibility is $170**

# CTE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

Create an NJEdCert account and submit an application for a CTE CE

**1 Certificate Options**
(complete 1 option)

**Minimum of a bachelor's degree**

- GPA of 3.00+ (2.75+ if you graduated before 9/1/2016)
- At least 30 semester hour credits in your desired subject

**Associates Degree + Employment Experience**

- Degree Transcript from and accredited university or career-focused institution
- GPA of 3.00+ (2.75+ if you graduated before 9/1/2016)
- At least 30 semester hour credits in your desired subject
- Evidence of 2+ years (4,000 hours) employment matching the description affiliated with your desired subject endorsement on pg 6

**Employment Experience Only**

- Evidence of 4 years (8,000 hours) + employment matching the description affiliated with your desired subject endorsement on pg 6

# CTE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

## 2 Select your Endorsement

- Audio Technology — 4103
- Audio-Visual Broadcast Production Technology — 4104
- Commercial Photography — 4101
- Design and Applied Arts — 4194
- Fashion Design — 4195
- Interactive Media — 4150
- Vocational Arts: Dance — 4068
- Vocational Arts: Theater — 4108

Review the page linked to your desired endorsement to confirm the degree and employment specifications.

☐ **Select an endorsement that aligns with your school/work experience**

# CTE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM

## 3 Physiology and Hygiene Requirement
(complete 1 option)

- ○ Present evidence of basic military training.
- ○ Complete a course such as biology, health or nutrition that appears on college or university transcript.
- ○ Complete an online test. You must have a tracking number and an application on file to take this test.
  - Study Guide
  - Register for an online test

☐ Complete and submit your application for a CTE CE

The fee for a Certificate of Eligibility is $170

# CE EPP & EMPLOYMENT SEARCH

## 1 Enroll in a Certificate of Eligibility Educator Preparation Program

For all three pathways (CE, CTE CE, and Limited CE) candidates must enroll in a CE EPP.

They must **complete** a 50-hours of pre-professional experience prior to employment.

Then **enroll** in the remaining 350-hours of formal instruction during their Provisional Teacher Process

Below are links to the Program Prodiver lists from the NJDOE website.

**Approved CE Program Providers**

**Approved Limited CE Program Providers**

**Approved CTE CE Program Providers**

- **Brookdale Community College**
- **William Paterson University**

Our accompanying chart features updated information for the programs with offerings for the five arts subject endorsements.

**View Arts Ed NJ's updated CE EPP Provider Chart**

# CE EPP & EMPLOYMENT SEARCH

## 2 Employment Search

### Subject Endorsement Code

| ART | DANCE | MUSIC | SPEECH ARTS | THEATER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1200 | 1635 | 2100 | 1452 | 1451 |

## CTE Endorsements

Review the page linked to your endorsement to see the courses you are authorized to teach.

- Audio Technology
- Audio-Visual Broadcast Production Technology
- Commercial Photography
- Design and Applied Arts
- Fashion Design
- Interactive Media
- Vocational Arts: Dance
- Vocational Arts: Theater

**Resources: njschooljobs.com**
**Rutgers Guide to Getting a Teaching Job in NJ**

# CE EPP & EMPLOYMENT SEARCH

## 3 Provisional Teacher Process (PTP)

When you find employment, your district will request your **provisional certificate** which legalizes your employment as a new teacher (valid for two years)

**The PTP is a school-based training and evaluation program provided during the initial years of teaching in New Jersey. It includes:**

- **Mentoring**
- **Evaluation**
- **Completion of the remaining 350 hours of the CE EPP formal instruction**

# BECOMING PERMANENTLY CERTIFIED

The district/school will request the issuance of a **standard teaching certificate** upon successful completion of the Provisional Teacher Process (PTP).

**To receive a standard certificate, the following must occur:**
(must complete all items)

- **District/school verified mentoring completion in NJEdCert.** ☐
- **District/school submitted the final summative ratings for each school year in NJEdCert.** ☐
- **The CE EPP submitted the appropriate Verification of Program Completion form.** ☐
- **Educator completed an Oath of Allegiance and submitted payment in NJEdCert once recommended by district/school.** ☐

## CONGRATULATIONS!

You are a certified arts educator in New Jersey!

# SUBJECT AREA BASED GUIDES

The following pages are supplementary resources that give breakdowns of the coursework/major requirements for each subject endorsement area.

# ART
## ENDORSEMENT CODE: 1200

### Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of art. At least 12 of the 30 semester-hour credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

The 30 semester-hour credits must include study in drawing, painting, and sculpture/ceramics.

### Coursework Examples

- Ceramics
- Printmaking
- Drawing
- Scultpure
- Painting
- 3-D Design

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

*Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.*

# DANCE

## ENDORSEMENT CODE: 1635

### Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of dance. At least 12 of the 30 semester-hour credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

### Coursework Examples

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Dance Production
- Modern Dance
- Hip-Hop
- Tap

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

*Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.*

# MUSIC
## ENDORSEMENT CODE: 2100

### Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of dance. At least 12 of the 30 semester-hour credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

### Coursework Examples

- Band
- Instrumental
- Music History
- Music Theory
- Opera
- Orchestra
- Vocal

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

*Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.*

# SPEECH ARTS
## ENDORSEMENT CODE: 1452

### Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of dance. At least 12 of the 30 semester-hour credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

### Coursework Examples

- Interpersonal Communication
- Oral Interpretation
- Public Speaking
- Speech Communication
- Speech Fundamentals
- Voice and Articulation

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

*Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.*

# THEATER

## ENDORSEMENT CODE: 1451

### Degree Requirements

A minimum of 30 semester-hour credits in a coherent sequence in the subject field of dance. At least 12 of the 30 semester-hour credits must be at the advanced level of study (junior, senior or graduate level).

### Coursework Examples

- Acting
- Stagecraft
- Theater History
- Musical Theater
- Scene Design
- Theatrical Sound Design

The final determination as to which courses will be counted towards the subject matter is based on content standards found in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

*Courses in pedagogy or education are not acceptable.*