

This document was created for teachers holding a Temporary Level certificate requiring semester hours in educational studies in order to renew or upgrade their certificate and teachers holding a Standard Level certificate requiring semester hours in educational studies in order to upgrade their certificate.

Why Educational Studies?

College credit in educational studies is required for those teachers who have not met a minimum number of semester hours in the field of Education in their college coursework. These teachers generally hold a degree in a field other than Education or Teaching. Educational studies courses provide training in areas such as curriculum design, classroom management, exceptional students, methods of teaching, educational technology, educational psychology, the learning process, etc. The number of semester hours in educational studies required for the Standard Level of most ACSI certificates is based on standards required by most states. Each teacher who is lacking the required number of educational studies on his/her transcripts will be required to take a certain number of semester hours in educational studies in order to renew a Temporary Level and/or upgrade to the Standard Level certificate. These educational studies must be taken for credit from a college/university with accreditation from a CHEA recognized accrediting agency.

Since each institution may have slightly different prefixes or titles to their courses, what follows below are generalizations of acceptable courses. If there is a question as to whether or not a specific course would be accepted toward the renewal of a specific person's ACSI certificate, please contact certification@acsi.org.

What courses are acceptable?

General

All teachers (Elementary, Secondary, All Levels, and Specialist) requiring educational studies on their certificates may take general educational studies courses which are not grade or age specific. These courses generally have an ED, EDU, or EDUC prefix and contain the following (or similar) titles and variations of each:

- Introduction to Education
- Curriculum Design
- Tests and Measurements/Assessment
- Classroom Management
- Exceptional Students/Diverse Learners (may have a SPED, SPF, etc. prefix)
- Educational Technology
- Instructional Technology
- Educational Psychology
- Multicultural Education

Elementary

Some courses are designed specifically for the elementary general classroom teacher (grades K-8). These courses may have an ED, EDU, or EDUC prefix, or an ELED, ELM, or ELEM prefix, and contain the following (or similar) titles and variations of each:

- Methods of Teaching Mathematics
- Methods of Teaching Social Studies
- Methods of Teaching Language Arts
- Methods of Teaching Science
- Children's Literature

Other educational studies courses may apply only to elementary certificates. These courses would contain a reference to elementary students in the title or course description and would not be applicable toward secondary certificates.

Secondary

Some courses are designed specifically for secondary teachers (grades 7-12). Secondary education courses are often subject-area specific (i.e., Methods of Teaching Secondary Social Studies) and, therefore, only applicable for teachers of that subject area. These courses may have an ED, EDU, EDUC prefix and contain the following (or similar) titles and variations of each

- Methods of Teaching Secondary Mathematics
- Methods of Teaching Secondary Language Arts
- Methods of Teaching Secondary Science
- Methods of Teaching Secondary Social Studies

Other educational studies courses may apply only to secondary certificates. These courses would contain a reference to secondary students in the title or course description and would not be applicable toward elementary certificates.

*Certificate holders who teach Middle School/Jr. High students (grades 7-8) are eligible for either the Elementary certificate or the Secondary Certificate. If opting for the Secondary Certificate, the guidelines for secondary education courses would apply in that, if the teacher were to take a secondary education course that is subject specific, it must align with the teacher's subject area.

What is Teaching Reading and Content Area Literacy?

Teachers holding an Elementary, Secondary, or All Levels certificate will be required to take a teaching reading or content area literacy course. Instruction in literacy and reading comprehension is a growing emphasis and required in most states, and all teachers must be prepared to help students succeed in this area. As with educational studies, all teachers may take a literacy/reading course that is not grade or age specific. However, many literacy/reading courses list an age or grade range in the title or course description. All Levels teachers may take either. These courses may have an ED, EDU, or EDUC prefix, or an REA, RDG, or RDNG prefix and contain the following (or similar) titles and variations of each:

- Foundations in Reading
- Assessment of Reading
- Literacy
- Reading Comprehension
- Reading and Writing Instruction
- Adolescent Reading
- Content Area Literacy
- Reading in the Content Area
- Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Difficulties

Where can I take educational studies for college credit without enrolling in a degree program?

Many regionally accredited colleges/universities offer continuing education programs which allow teachers to take individual courses for college credit without enrolling in a degree program. For a list of a few commonly-used programs, please contact certification@acsi.org.