



A Guide to Completing Teacher Certification in Language Arts

This guide is used in conjunction with the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication degree sheet for:
Professional Writing (B795)

The information in this guide along with your degree sheet will assist in planning your enrollment to complete the requirements for teacher certification through the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education (JRCoE).

Students in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC), earning a degree in Professional Writing (B795), will complete their degree program and add the Professional Education courses leading to teacher certification for grades 6-12. **Professional Education courses will be taken in place of the required minor and 30 hours of free electives.** Students will also take advisor approved Literature courses for required General Education requirements.

Students will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in their declared major, and upon successful completion of a full-time student teaching internship, will receive a recommendation for teacher certification in the state of Oklahoma. In addition, specific works of literature may be required in one or more of the three 1-credit hour practicums, JMC 3011. These works of literature will help prepare you for your Teaching Certification Subject Area Test (OSAT) and for teaching in your classroom.

Students in JMC adding teacher certification to their degree program are eligible to apply for a variety of grants and scholarships through the JRCoE. These include but are not limited to: The OU Debt-Free Teacher Program, The TEACH Grant, and Inspire to Teach Program.

Full Admission – Students in JMC adding teacher certification to their degree must meet with their JMC Advisor to determine if they are eligible. Your JMC advisor will clarify how the Professional Education courses will be used toward the completion of their degree. Students will then be referred to the Language Arts Education advisor in the JRCoE. ***It is important to ask your JMC Advisor if adding teacher certification to your degree program will impact your current graduation timeline.***

The specific criteria for Full Admission are outlined on the college's Full Admission Checklist. The Language Arts Education advisor will clarify the coursework and other requirements to be completed prior to applying for Full Admission.

Four times a year (January, March, August, and October) qualified students are emailed, to their OU email, the online application for Full Admission. ***Until fully admitted, students are not eligible to enroll in the Professional Education courses required for teacher certification.***

Undergraduate JRCoE Student Orientation – After full admission, all students are required to attend a mandatory Undergraduate Student Orientation where they will receive an iPad and an introduction about the JRCoE and get to know faculty and staff.

Certification Exams – Taking and passing all Oklahoma certification exams is required for a teacher certification license in the state of Oklahoma.

January 2025

Retention – Students must maintain a minimum **2.75** grade point average with no grade less than “C” in all Professional Education coursework to be eligible for teacher certification.

***Students are encouraged to contact the Language Arts Education Advisor for more information.**