

Teacher Certification in Michigan



Candidates who have met all requirements in Michigan receive an Elementary or Secondary Provisional Teaching Certificate which is valid for six years.

The **Elementary certificate** qualifies the holder to teach:

Grades K-5, all subjects
Grades 6-8, self-contained classroom
Major(s) and Minor(s) in Grades 6-8.

Elementary education teachers with the Cognitive Impairment endorsement are also certified to teach K-12 special education.

The **Secondary certificate** qualifies the holder to teach the **Major(s) and Minor(s) in Grades 6-12**. Some majors such as **PE, Art, Music, Spanish, or French** qualify the holder to teach the major to **Grades K-12**.

When you receive your certificate, take it to Calvin Financial Services to have it notarized. You will need to sign the teacher oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution of the United States of America and the constitution of the State of Michigan, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of teacher according to the best of my ability."

Teacher Certification in Other States and Canada



Each state and province has its own rules for certification.

Other states and provinces may require:

- Additional tests, such as the Praxis Tests
- Official MTTC test score reports (save the reports you received in the mail because ordering a new report costs \$15)
- Additional courses (such as a course in the history of the particular state)
- Application fees
- Official Calvin transcripts
- A copy of your 90-day letter or Michigan teaching certificate
- Criminal background check and fingerprinting
- Validation that the candidate has completed a college program - send verification forms to the Calvin College Certification Coordinator

Most states and provinces that require additional tests or courses will grant you a temporary certificate so that you may begin teaching immediately and have time to meet the additional requirements.

Some small private schools in other states can accept your Michigan certificate and will not require you to be certified in the new state. When you receive a job offer, ask about the school's policies related to certification.

How to be Certified in another State or Province

Prayerfully consider teaching in another state or country. Calvin's Teacher Certification Coordinator can help you sort through the certificate application process while Career Development and the Alumni Office can provide further support and connections with Calvin grads around the world. For example, recent grads have found teaching positions in 27 different states as well as Canada, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, China, Korea, Nigeria, and Tanzania.

1. Links to certification websites for other states and provinces are available on Calvin's Education Department Website - <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/education/students/certific.htm> . Application forms and information are usually available online. Most states also provide application checklists that you should follow carefully.

2. Order official Calvin transcripts for the state or provincial office where you are hoping to teach. Complete a Transcript Request form at Academic Services. Check the box labeled "Hold for graduation verification." Calvin College grants degrees four times a year (December, January, May, and August) and your application to a particular state or province will probably not be considered until your degree is posted on your transcripts. Check the state or province website to determine where the official transcripts should be sent.

3. If a section of the application needs to be completed by Calvin College (Program Verification, Confirmation of State Tests Taken, etc.) **fax or mail the forms to Calvin College Teacher Certification** (address is below). Forms will be signed and mailed to the address you specify. Even if a form instructs you to do so, do not send any forms to the Michigan Department of Education because they will not complete these forms.

4. CAUTION: If you decide not to be certified in Michigan, the state or province will evaluate your transcripts and may require you to complete a number of additional college courses. You would not be able to begin teaching until those courses are completed, which could cost you significant time and money.

For this reason, we recommend that everyone who completes Calvin's Education Program complete the requirements for the Michigan teaching certificate, obtain the 90-day letter and certificate bill, and then pay the bill within five years if the official Michigan certificate is needed. The bill will have a payment deadline to encourage you to pay the bill immediately, however, the Michigan Department of Education will accept the payment within five years with no late fees or penalties. Many states will require a copy of your 90-day letter or Michigan teaching certificate, so it will be much easier to be certified in other states and provinces if you are certified or at least recommended for certification in Michigan first.

It is very important to be certified or licensed in at least one state or province – if you decide not to be certified at all, keep in mind that you are limiting your employment options for the rest of your life!

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