

Becoming a New CTE Teacher

There are several ways to become an Arizona CTE teacher. Listed below are the certification options. For complete details, visit the Arizona Department of Education's website for the best source of information: <http://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/forms-and-information/certificates/>.

Starting the Process

You will begin the process by downloading the CTE Teacher Certification. The form for that is here: <https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=57a4d90caadebe130c51857a>

You will need to obtain a fingerprint card. This step can take the most time in processing so it is important to apply for one as soon as possible. Here's how you can begin that step: <http://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/fingerprint-clearance-card-ivp/>

In order to complete the application you will also need to select the certificate option that is best for you within one of the six specialty areas. When selecting an option, know that each option is available for each specialty area (Agriculture, Business and Marketing, Education and Training, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Careers, Industrial and Emerging Technologies). Scroll down about halfway on the first website above for ADE, and you will see the specialty areas to click on.

You may also need to document work experience. That document is here: <https://cms.azed.gov/home/GetDocumentFile?id=57bf6023aadebe0bd86f8b5b>

Each of these options has requirements you must already have, as well as "allowable deficiencies" that the state will give you three years to complete before renewing your teaching certificate.

Within each specialty area (mentioned above), these are your options:

Option A

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree in Content Area for that specialty

Example: A person with a college degree in an area like Business (at least 30 semester hours in business classes).

Option B

Valid non-CTE Arizona Teaching Certificate or an Arizona CTE Teaching Certificate in another area

Example: A person already is a teacher (maybe a Science or English) that has been successfully evaluated. Must have three semester hours of a CTE methods class or a class in the area they plan to teach in (e.g. Agriculture).

Option C

Business and Industry Professional

Example: A person has 6,000 clock hours of verified professional experience in the field in which they plan to teach

Option D

Bachelor's degree and a teacher preparation program.

Example: A person who completes an education program specific to their career area such as Agricultural Education at a university

Option E

Out-of-State Certificate

Example: A person has a CTE Teaching Certificate from another state

Option F

Standard Specialized

Example: A person has five years of work experience in the field in which they plan to teach.

Once you have determined the specialty area you fit and the Option within it, begin the work on your fingerprint card if you haven't already done so, and check in with your district's CTE director to make sure that option is best for your past work experience. Then you are ready to begin the work on your Arizona teaching certification in CTE!