



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **I have heard of the DVUSD Teacher Prep Program, but what is it?**

The Teacher Prep Program is an alternative pathway to a teaching certificate. The program is designed, taught, and supervised by Deer Valley educators to help ensure that the next generation of DVUSD are best prepared for teaching in our district. At the end of the program, participants are fully certified teachers in the state of Arizona.

## **What are the qualifications to enter the program?**

In order to qualify for the program you simply need to have a bachelor's degree (in any discipline), a fingerprint clearance card, and have a heart for students.

## **How do I apply for this program?**

If you are interested in the **Special Education program**, you will begin the application by [completing this form](#). If you are interested in the **Elementary General Education program**, you will need to [complete this application](#). You will then use our [WinOcular system](#) to complete the certified application. Someone will then be in touch with you to give you further guidance and set up your series of interviews to help us determine the best placement for you.

## **What degree would I be earning through this program?**

This is a certification program. You are NOT earning a degree, only earning a post-baccalaureate certificate. This certification allows you to teach in Arizona; however, it is non-reciprocal should you move out of state.

## **Ok then, what certificate would I be earning through this program?**

While in the program you will be placed on an Alternative Pathway Certificate which is good for 2 years. If you do not successfully complete the program at the end of those 2 years, you will be able to apply for a 1 year extension. Upon completion of the program, your Alternative Pathways Certificate will be converted to a Standard Classroom Based Certificate in the program you completed.

## **When are classes meeting? Are they online? In person?**

All classes meet in person at one of our district schools. Classes meet on Wednesdays for the Special Ed program and Thursdays for the Gen. Ed program, from 4:30-7:30 pm.

## **I am worried about the time commitment. What kind of time would I have to dedicate to this program?**

Classes meet once a week for 3 hours of instruction. There may be another 1-3 hours of work outside of that class meeting. However, the courses are built to be very practical in nature. What you do in class on Wednesday can be applied in your classroom on Thursday. The course work is designed with your classroom in mind and incorporates best practices, instructional strategies, and reflective thinking.

## **What kind of support would I get as I enter my own classroom?**

Deer Valley Unified School District prides itself on the mentorship programs that exist for all new to district and new to profession teachers. As a participant in this program, you would be eligible for those same supports. Additionally, the program coordinator will provide field supervision and will meet you at your school to review your goals as a teaching professional and support you in your instruction as you begin to implement new learning from your course work.

## **What areas/subjects would I be certified to teach?**

There are 3 key areas of certification. Our first program certifies teachers in the area of special education: mild/moderate disabilities K-12 grade. In addition, we have an Early Childhood (PreK-3rd Grade) Special Education program. The third program is K-8 Elementary Education. Teachers interested in teaching in the middle grades would need to be highly qualified in a specific subject area and would need to pass the subject area exam prior to beginning the program.

## **I am very interested in the program, but I don't know if I am ready to take on my own classroom. What options do I have?**

There are so many people in our Deer Valley Family that have been sharing their heart for students in so many different capacities throughout the district. However, we also understand that taking on your own classroom can feel overwhelming. To meet this need, we have designed [The Rise Program](#). In this track, you would be able to get a few classes under your belt to learn about child development and classroom management before taking on your own classroom. We want to meet you where you are and build you into the educator you are meant to become. You can get a more detailed description of the [Rise Track on our Google Site](#).

## **What does this program cost?**

This program is completely FREE to members of the Deer Valley Community.

## **What do I do if I want more information?**

Please contact Stefanie Ewbank at: [stefanie.ewbank@dvusd.org](mailto:stefanie.ewbank@dvusd.org) or 623.445.4916. You can also complete [this interest form](#) and she will get back to you soon.