

The American Board certification is ideal for knowledgeable and motivated professionals who want to change careers and become teachers, and for current teachers who need to earn their certification.

The program was officially recognized by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as a route to state certification in May 2008. All teachers certified through the American Board are considered highly qualified.

### **Current Missouri Certifications**

- Biology (9-12)
- Chemistry (9-12)
- English (5-9/9-12)
- General Science (5-9/9-12)
- Math (5-9/9-12)
- Physics (9-12)
- History (5-9/9-12)

### **Requirements**

All candidates for certification must hold a bachelor's degree and demonstrate mastery on subject area and professional teaching knowledge examinations. Prior to earning certification, candidates must also pass a federal background check.

### **Process**

1. Complete the American Board certification program.
  - a. Use certificate in step 3

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requirements for using the American Board certificate:**

**<http://www.dese.mo.gov/> Phone: (573) 751-0051 or (573) 751-3847**

### **DESE requires candidates to have a minimum 2.5 GPA**

2. Spend 60 contact hours in a school working with children (grades K-12). Hours must be validated by the school principal. These may be fulfilled using a combination of the following:
  - Teaching in a public school classroom. You must be the lead instructor for at least 45 of the hours
  - Substitute teaching with at least 30 consecutive hours in the same classroom
  - Teaching in a private school
  - Teaching as a paraprofessional
3. Apply to DESE for Missouri Initial Professional Certificate (IPC) of License to Teach. This is valid for 4 years.
4. Obtain a teaching position.
5. Complete two years of mentoring in a program approved by the Missouri State Board of Education. Mentoring programs are offered by most school districts at no cost.
  - a. All candidates for Missouri State certification must complete a minimum of 30 hours of professional development
  - b. Complete a Beginning Teacher Assistance program
  - c. Obtain a successful performance based teacher evaluation
6. Apply for the Missouri Career Continuous Professional Certificate.