

ABCTE offers a certification program ideal for knowledgeable and motivated professionals who want to change careers and become teachers, and for current teachers who need to earn their certification.

ABCTE certification was officially recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a route to state certification in 2005. All teachers certified through ABCTE's program are considered highly qualified.

Current Pennsylvania Certifications

- Elementary Education (K-6)
- English (7-12)
- Math (7-12)
- General Science (7-12)
- Physics (7-12)

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 ABCTE program
 - a. Ideally, certificate should be used within 3 years
 - b. Use certificate in step 2 below

Pennsylvania Dept. of Education Requirements for using the ABCTE Certificate:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/other_routes_to_certification/8818/american_board_\(abcte\)/506779](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/other_routes_to_certification/8818/american_board_(abcte)/506779)

1. Obtain a teaching position in a Pennsylvania school
2. Apply for a Temporary Teaching Permit (TTP) (1 year) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Be sure to include:
 - a. An authorization to ABCTE releasing your score reports to PDE
 - b. A notarized copy of the front and back of your ABCTE certificate
 - c. A completed Pennsylvania certification application
 - d. A sealed official copy of your college transcript
3. Transform your TTP into an Instructional I Certificate by completing:
 - a. PA Dept. Ed mentoring program for ABCTE teachers through Pt. Park University.
 - b. 2 graduate level courses through Pt. Park University. Full details on the post-certification requirements can be found on Pt. Park's web site.
 1. *These requirements cannot be fulfilled while teaching in a cyber charter school.*

Point Park University information for ABCTE:

<http://www.pointpark.edu/Academics/Schools/SchoolofArtsandSciences/Departments/Education/ABCTE>