

Teacher Certification Requirements for Trade Workers in Connecticut

By: Marybeth Sullivan, Senior Legislative Attorney
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Issue

Which Connecticut teacher certification laws allow people who have worked in the trades to become vocational education teachers at technical high schools, comprehensive high schools, and community colleges?

Summary

High school teachers must hold certification whether they are teaching a traditional academic subject, like English or mathematics, or a career or technical skill, like plumbing or digital media. Connecticut's teaching certificates are paired with "endorsements" that allow the holder to teach in specific subject areas and grade levels.

State regulations establish three types of trade-related certificate endorsements that apply to high school teachers in the technical and education career system (TECS) and five types that apply to teachers in comprehensive high schools. This report describes the certification endorsement requirements for teachers with trade experience seeking entry-level certificates, known as "initial" certificates. Links to additional regulations for higher level certification (i.e., "provisional" and "professional") are also provided.

According to the State Department of Education's (SDE's) [website](#), one-year interim certificates are also available if the applicant is requesting an endorsement in an area or field for which a bachelor's degree is not required, or for agriculture education, health occupations, marketing education, or practical nurse education program. Applicants may be eligible even if they are deficient in up to six credit requirements in addition to the special education course of study. Certificates may be renewed for an additional year.

There are no state statutes or regulations establishing certification requirements for community college trades instructors.

TECS Certification Endorsement Requirements

There are three types of certificate endorsements in state regulations that apply to teachers in TECS, depending upon the skill subject area taught. (A fourth certificate for “trade related subjects” also exists in state regulation but does not appear to be issued in practice according to SDE’s [website](#).) This report will describe requirements for the entry-level “initial” certificate endorsements. All three types require (1) a certain minimum education level, (2) demonstration of specific work experience in the subject area taught, and (3) completion of a technical high school teaching practicum and special education coursework.

Education and Experience Requirements

Table 1 below describes each of the three certificate endorsements, the minimum education level required to attain each, and the specific field experience applicants must demonstrate in order to earn entry-level “initial” certification. The table provides links to each endorsement’s relevant regulations, including those for the mid- and high-level certificate tiers (i.e., “provisional” and “professional” certification) that are not described in the table.

Table 1: Education and Experience Requirements for Initial Certification Endorsements to Teach in TECS

Certificate Endorsement Type	Description	Education and Experience Requirements
Occupational Subjects in Vocational-Technical Schools (#090) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-509 to 10-145d-513)	For teachers in fields that require special knowledge, skills, and expertise and are not addressed within existing teacher preparation institutions (e.g., automobile servicing, carpentry, plumbing, culinary arts, electronics, cosmetology)	Hold a high school diploma or GED Have completed eight years of experience in the field, including no more than five years of apprenticeship or specialized schooling
Practical Nurse Education in Vocational-Technical Schools (#108) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-519 to 10-145d-523)	For teachers of practical nurse education courses	Hold a valid registered nurse license issued by the Department of Public Health Hold a bachelor’s degree from an approved institution Have completed three years of nursing experience

Table 1 (continued)

Certificate Endorsement Type	Description	Education and Experience Requirements
Health Occupation in Vocational-Technical Schools (#109) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-524 to 10-145d-528)	For teachers of subjects such as dental assistant, dental laboratory technology, home health aide, or medical assisting	Hold a high school diploma or GED Hold a valid license or certificate appropriate to the particular health occupation to be taught, issued by the appropriate Connecticut governing body Have completed eight years of approved experience in the particular health occupation to be taught, or hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution and have three years of approved experience in the particular occupation

Teaching and Coursework Requirements

In addition to education and experience requirements described in Table 1 above, all of these initial teaching certificate endorsements require that applicants complete the following:

1. at least six semester hours of credit teaching vocational and industrial education and
2. at least 36 clock hours of a special education course studying the growth and development of exceptional children (including children with disabilities, gifted and talented children, and children who may require special education) and methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with children with special needs in the regular classroom ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-511, 10-145d-521 & 10-145d-526](#)).

Comprehensive High School Certification Endorsement Requirements

There are five types of certificate endorsements that apply to vocational teachers in comprehensive high schools, depending upon the skill subject area taught. This report describes requirements for the entry-level initial certificate. All five types require (1) a certain minimum education level, (2) demonstration of specific work experience in the subject area taught, and (3) completion of a technical high school teaching practicum and special education coursework.

Education and Experience Requirements

Table 2 below describes each of the five certificates, the minimum education level required to attain each, and the specific field experience applicants must demonstrate in order to become certified.

Table 2: Education and Experience Requirements for Initial Certification Endorsements to Teach Vocational Courses in Comprehensive High Schools

Certificate Endorsement Type	Description	Education and Experience Requirements
Trade and Industrial Occupations (#098) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-495 to 10-145d-499)	For teachers in a comprehensive high school trade and industrial program in fields that call for special knowledge, skill, and experience and are not addressed within existing teacher preparation institutions (e.g., automotive servicing, machine tool and operation, building maintenance and repairs, welding) Only issued upon written request of the employing agent (i.e., board of education)	Hold a high school diploma or GED Have at least three years of approved successful work experience in the applicable field; up to two years of specialized appropriate schooling may fulfill part of this requirement
Agriculture/Aquaculture Education (#041) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-485 to 10-145d-489)	For teachers of agriculture or aquaculture employed by boards of education	Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved college or university, with a major in agriculture or aquaculture Have one year of satisfactory agriculture- or aquaculture-related experience
Health Occupations (#103) (Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-490 to 10-145d-494)	For health instructors in comprehensive high schools	Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution Have one year of satisfactory experience in health occupations If appropriate to the subject being taught, hold a valid license issued by the Department of Public Health

Table 2 (continued)

Certificate Endorsement Type	Description	Education and Experience Requirements
<p>Marketing Education (#089)</p> <p>(Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-500 to 10-145d-503)</p>	<p>For teachers of cooperative classes in marketing education employed by boards of education</p>	<p>Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution</p> <p>Have completed at least 15 semester hours of credit in marketing fields (e.g., merchandising, promotion, store organization)</p> <p>Have completed one year of satisfactory experience in a marketing field; may be fulfilled by participating in a cooperative, part-time, college-level program</p>
<p>Cooperative Work Education (#104)</p> <p>(Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-504 to 10-145d-508)</p>	<p>For teachers of cooperative work education for grades 7-12 employed by boards of education</p>	<p>Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved institution</p> <p>Hold or be eligible to hold secondary-level certification in any subject or field</p> <p>Have completed one year of satisfactory non-teaching work experience</p> <p>Have completed three semester credit hours in principles and organization of cooperative work education</p> <p>Have completed three semester credit hours in both (1) foundations and principles of vocational education and (2) labor market analysis trends and job readiness</p>

Additional Teaching and Coursework Requirements

In addition to the education and experience requirements described in Table 2 above, all vocational initial teaching certificate endorsements for teachers in comprehensive high schools (except for one) require that applicants complete the following:

1. at least six semester hours of credit in professional education in (a) the teaching of vocational and industrial education or (b) foundations of education, educational psychology, adolescent psychology, psychology of learning, curriculum and methods of teaching, classroom instruction and management, multicultural diversity, or equity issues in education (except for certificate endorsement #104) and
2. at least 36 clock hours of a special education course studying the growth and development of exceptional children (including children with disabilities, gifted and talented children, and children who may require special education) and methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with children with special needs in the regular classroom ([Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 10-145d-487, 10-145d-492, 10-145d-497, 10-145d-501 & 10-145d-506](#)).

Exceptions

For only the endorsement in Trade and Industrial Occupations (#098), state regulation waives all Table 2 requirements and the above teaching and coursework requirements if the candidate (1) holds or is eligible for a home economic or vocational home economics certificate and (2) has at least six months of approved successful work experience in the field in which the certificate is to be endorsed ([Conn. Agencies Regs. § 10-145d-497\(b\)](#)).

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