

Are You Eligible?

To be eligible for certification, teachers must meet the following education, employment, and licensure requirements prior to starting the certification process. Candidates will be asked to verify these during registration.

- Possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. *NOTE: Candidates for the Career and Technical Education certificate are required to hold a bachelor's degree only if their state required one for their current license.*
- Have completed three years of successful teaching in one or more early childhood, elementary, middle, or secondary school.
- Hold a valid state teaching license (or meet the licensure requirements established by your state for a school counselor if applying for the ECYA/School Counseling certificate) for each of the three years of employment you verify.
- Provide official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) certified ratings of Advanced Low or higher from ACTFL speaking and writing proficiency assessments if registering as a World Languages candidate. For more information on this prerequisite for World Languages candidates, refer to the [Guide to National Board Certification](#).

Timeline

Our timeline makes it easy to get certified. The four components can be submitted in any order. Candidates can complete from one to four components a year.

Candidates must submit all four components within the first three years of their candidacy. While it is possible to complete the process in as little as one year, there is a five-year window to achieve certification.

Note: Although candidates are provided with five years to complete the certification process, all purchased components must be completed during the assessment cycle in which they are purchased. Read [Guide to National Board Certification](#) for important dates and deadlines for completing the certification process.

Taking Action and Becoming a Candidate

Take time to review the [Guide to National Board Certification](#), paying close attention to important dates, deadlines, and policies. When you're ready to get certified, create an account in the [National Board Candidate Management System](#) (NBCMS) to register and purchase components. For each assessment cycle you plan to take components, a \$75 nonrefundable and nontransferable registration fee is required and must be paid before purchasing a component. Components must be selected and purchased separately prior to the registration deadline for each assessment cycle.



Purchase only the components you plan to complete during the assessment cycle for which you are registered.

The initial cost for each of the four components is \$475 (the total cost for the initial attempt of all four components is

\$1,900). Retake attempts require an additional fee.

In our ongoing efforts to streamline the certification process, we've moved to a paperless delivery system. Standards and other assessment documents are available on [our resources page](#). Be sure to check our website and your email regularly for updates and information. Everything you'll ever need to know about how to get certified can be found throughout this website.