



Alternative Certification - Additional Endorsements: A Primer

The requirements for alternative certification, additional endorsement candidates, is often misunderstood. Please review the detailed information below to gain a clear understanding.

Technically, alternative certification was really designed for people obtaining their initial certification. However, it was determined that nothing in the law disallowed those with existing certifications from gaining interim certification in other areas. Therefore, when enrolled in alternative certification additional endorsement programs, you begin with the Interim Certification as required by law. Once you gain the Interim Certification, you can begin teaching that subject at any school or district in the State of Michigan. Please note that as soon as you pass the MTTC, the Interim Certification can be issued even if you are still completing coursework or portfolio requirements.

The Interim Certification is not a "less than" certification. It is, in fact, a full certification. The primary difference between the Interim Certification and the Standard/Professional Certification centers around reciprocity to teach in other states. For the first three years, an Interim Certification holder can only teach the new content area(s) in the State of Michigan. This is essentially how Michigan built-in a way to keep teachers in Michigan to address the teacher shortage in this state. On or after the 3rd anniversary but prior to the 5th anniversary of certificate issuance, you can add the new endorsement area(s) to your existing Standard or Professional Certificate. Once added to your existing certificate, you can then teach in other states in those endorsement areas as provided for by the reciprocity laws in the states that participate in the [Interstate Reciprocity Agreement](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE: While the program takes a minimum of 3 years to complete, the coursework must be completed within 13 months. After the coursework is completed, you must wait until the 3rd anniversary of the issuance of your Interim Certificate before the new area can be added to your existing standard or professional certificate as described in detail below.

On or after the 3rd anniversary but prior to the 5th anniversary of certificate issuance, you can add the new endorsement area(s) to your existing Standard or Professional Certificate. **As such, until the new endorsement area(s) are added to your existing certification, two certificates will show up in MOECS, the Interim and the Standard or Professional.** Again, at any point after the 3rd anniversary but prior to the 5th anniversary of certificate issuance, you can add the new endorsement area(s) to an existing certificate.

As for the teaching time requirements, the clock does not begin ticking until the issuance of the Interim Certificate. As such, you cannot count any teaching time towards the requirements that took place prior to the date that the interim Certificate was issued. The teaching time requirements are as follows:

Full-Time Teaching*

During the 5-year validity of the Interim Certificate, candidates must gain:

- 3 Years of full-time teaching (Min)
- 50 hours of teaching in all new endorsement areas

Part-Time Teaching*

During the 5-year validity of the Interim Certificate, candidates must gain:

- 600 hours of part-time time teaching (Min)
- 50 hours of teaching in all new endorsement areas

NOTE: The 3 years of full-time teaching or 600 hours or part-time teaching can be in any area that you hold a certification in on your existing certificate or interim certificate. However, it **MUST include at least 50 hours in each new content area.*

50 Hours Example

- Let's say a person was seeking new endorsements in Mathematics, Integrated Science and English. On or after the 3rd anniversary but prior to the 5th anniversary of certificate issuance, the individual must have at least 50 hours of teaching time in each of the three areas. The 50 hours do not have to be in any particular order and can include periodic placements, summer school, etc. As long as you have 50 hours in each area prior to attempting to add them to an existing standard or professional, the new areas will get added no problem. Any areas that you have not taught in for at least 50 hours by the 5th anniversary cannot be added to an existing certificate.

To summarize, you need 50 hours in each area **AND** you must teach full-time for at least three years or 600 hours part-time over the 5-year validity of the certificate before you can add the new endorsement areas to your existing certification. **As long as the 50 hours are achieved in your new area(s) of certification, the remaining time you can teach in your new certification area(s) or your existing certification areas.** Additionally, all coursework must be completed within the first 13 months of the program. During years two and three (or any time after coursework is completed), you will still be required to participate in your cohort meetings as well as engage in the spring and fall assessment cycles and self-assessments. You will also be required to complete any surveys or data requests from #TEACH or MDE.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Regards!

The #TEACH Team