

TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Using our online resources, you can find the alternative preparation program that's right for you. Here's how:

1. Access the Alternative Preparation Program Directory by searching "Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs Directory" at www.google.com.
2. Determine which programs are open to your desired **area of certification** (elementary education, secondary English, secondary biology, special education, etc.).
3. Of the programs that offer your area of certification, determine the **school district** where you would most like to work.
4. **Contact** the program director or visit the program website to determine the school system's need, the application procedures, and the cost of the program.

To apply for any of the Maryland approved alternative preparation programs, contact the program director or visit the program website.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

All teacher preparation programs in Maryland require passing scores on the Praxis I and a required assessment of content area knowledge. Most alternative preparation programs will require passing scores on Praxis I and the content portion of Praxis II as entry requirements. Visit www.ets.org/praxis to determine the tests required for your content area.

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MARYLAND APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

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www.tttmaryland.org

ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION PROGRAMS IN MARYLAND

Maryland's alternative preparation programs are tailored to meet the staffing needs of Maryland school districts, while providing the convenience necessary to attract experienced, diverse individuals to the classroom. Many school districts offer alternative preparation, some in partnership with two-year or four-year colleges or other private providers.

Alternative preparation programs differ from traditional programs in that alternative preparation leads to teacher certification, but not necessarily to a degree. Alternative preparation programs allow you to begin teaching and receiving a salary much earlier in your program, and they usually cost much less than traditional routes. Because of the modified timeframe, alternative preparation programs are considered intensive and very challenging.



For more information, visit www.tttmaryland.org

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

To be eligible for an alternative preparation program, you must hold a bachelor's degree. In addition, you must meet requirements related to:

- Content Area GPA
- Content Area Coursework
- Praxis I Test
- Required Assessment of Content Area (e.g., Praxis II, ACTFL)

If you are eligible, you will undergo a rigorous selection process by school system personnel and program providers.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING AND SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

Alternative preparation takes a just-in-time approach to instruction. Training and support are tailored to your needs. Prior to becoming a teacher, alternative preparation programs offer at least 90 hours of training, along with a supervised 4-8 week internship. A supervisor will provide daily support and feedback during your internship.

Once you begin teaching, a mentor will work with you for the first 1 to 2 years, providing the support necessary to ensure your success in the classroom. Program instructors and peer cohort members will also provide valuable support through ongoing coursework during this period, known as the residency.

HOW QUICKLY WILL I BEGIN TEACHING?

After you have completed your pre-employment training and required internship, you will become a paid teacher in your own classroom. At this time, you will begin your residency, be issued a Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC), and will receive the regular pay and benefits of teachers in your school district. In some programs it is only eight short weeks between the beginning of your program and your first day as a certified resident teacher.



IS MY EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEED?

Yes. When you are accepted into an alternative preparation program, you are guaranteed the opportunity to complete the residency in the partnering school district, given that you have met certain conditions.

Upon successful completion of the 1 to 2-year residency and any other program requirements, you will become eligible for a Standard Professional Certificate which allows you to teach in any school district in Maryland. At that time, your school district will make a decision regarding continuation of your employment based on your teaching performance.

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