



## **Office of Teacher Preparation Advising and PACE**

### **Certificate Information and Requirements**

Students who have completed degree, student teaching, and testing requirements, may apply for the standard educator certificate through the Texas Education Agency's Educator Certification Online System; submission of fingerprints for a criminal background check will be required. Upon program recommendation, a standard certificate may be issued by the State Board for Educator Certification provided the criminal background check is clear. The certificate gives a teacher legal authority to perform duties in public schools of Texas in area(s) designated on the face of the certificate.

- Admission to West Texas A&M University is not admission to teacher education. Admission to teacher education is based on standards approved by the Teacher Education Unit at the time the student is seeking admission to teacher education.
- Because teacher education standards are subject to change by the Legislature and State Board for Educator Certification, students are not guaranteed to finish under the requirements listed in the catalog at the time of admission. Consult advisers for updates on degree and certification requirements.
- No student will be recommended for certification until the student has been admitted to the Teacher Education Program. Any student who does not complete a degree and certification plan within six years or who changes to another degree plan will automatically be dropped from teacher education. The student must reapply for admission into teacher education and must complete current admission and program requirements.
- Student teaching must be completed in residence at a public school accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or other school approved by TEA.
- Any student who drops or fails student teaching is dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for entrance into teacher education. The student will be required to appear before an appeals committee which must approve the application before the student may be readmitted.