As of May 27, 2021, there are four state-based pathways for acquiring a Professional Teaching Certificate. All require that before individuals receive the certificate, they must:

- Possess a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with the minimum overall cumulative grade point average of 2.5
- Pass all required testing as described in the West Virginia Licensure Testing Directory on the WVDE website
- Successfully complete a state-approved program/coursework (see pathways below)
- Meet general requirements of WVBE Policy with a qualifying outcome on criminal history checks

**Professional Teaching Certificate Requirements**

**Explanation of West Virginia Pathways**

**Pathway 1: Traditional Certification Teacher Preparation Programs**

West Virginia is known for majestic landscapes, fantastic outdoor activities, and compelling business opportunities. If you are looking to pursue a career that empowers you to make a positive impact on the lives of children and their communities, look no further. Review the summary information below to begin your journey and change lives in the Mountain State!

Individuals enrolled in a traditional teacher preparation program who already possess a bachelor’s degree and qualifying grade point average may communicate with school districts to pursue employment if an area of critical need and shortage exists in the endorsement(s) they are working to become licensed for by seeking a First-Class Full-Time Permit to teach while they are completing program requirements.
Individuals who wish to engage in alternative certification programs due to critical need and shortage, which are only available upon approval by the school district and through approval by the WVBE, to qualify for an Alternative Teaching Certificate. The state's minimum criteria include:

General Education and Special Education Endorsements:
- Bachelor’s degree
- Minimum 2.5 GPA
- Pass basic skills Praxis exams
- General requirements of WVBE Policy (with a qualifying outcome on criminal history checks)

Additional Criteria for General Education Endorsements:
- An academic degree major OR occupational qualifications, related to the vacancy’s required endorsement(s)
- Pass content specific Praxis tests

Upon successful completion of the program, testing, and receiving an “Approved” rating on the Comprehensive Evaluation Report, these individuals must meet all conversion requirements for the Provisional Teaching Certificate (a non-transferrable Professional Certificate). Those holding a Provisional Teaching Certificate may advance their licensure by meeting conversion requirements for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Pathway 2: Alternative Certification Teacher Preparation Programs

Pathway 3: State-Approved Teacher Preparation Coursework

Pathway 4: WVDE Alternative Certification Programs

The WVDE has authorized alternative certification programs under §18A-3-1j, which allow individuals who possess a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and an overall 2.5 GPA to complete coursework approved by the WVDE for receiving a Professional Teaching Certificate. To get started, visit the Preparation section of www.TeachWV.com to review a list of state-approved courses recognized as pursuant to this section of West Virginia State Code. Individuals utilizing this pathway must fulfill requirements for coursework, testing, and criminal history checks to qualify for a Professional Teaching Certificate.

Once you have reviewed this summary information, please refer to WVBE Policies (ex. 5202, 5100, and 5901) for complete requirements or contact the Office of Educator Development and Support Services at 304-558-3119.