

**Virginia Department of Education
Division of Teacher Education and Licensure
P.O. Box 2120
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Out-of-State and On-Line Programs

Pursuant to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, effective September 21, 2007, degrees must be earned from regionally accredited colleges and universities. You may review the regulations at the following Web site:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_regs.pdf

Below is an excerpt from the regulations regarding the “**Conditions for licensure for out-of-state candidates by reciprocity.**”

8VAC20-22-100. Conditions for licensure for out-of-state candidates by reciprocity.

A. An individual coming into Virginia from any state may qualify for a Virginia teaching license with **comparable** endorsement areas if the individual has completed a state-approved teacher preparation program through a regionally accredited four-year college or university, or if the individual holds a valid out-of-state teaching license (full credential without deficiencies) that must be in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is made. An individual seeking licensure must establish a file in the Department of Education by submitting a complete application packet, which includes official student transcripts. Professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education must be satisfied.

B. An individual coming into Virginia will qualify for a Virginia teaching license with comparable endorsement areas if the individual holds national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) or a nationally recognized certification program approved by the Board of Education.

C. Licensure by reciprocity is provided for individuals who have obtained a valid out-of-state license (full credential without deficiencies) that is in force at the time the application for a Virginia license is received by the Department of Education. The individual must establish a file in the Department of Education by submitting a complete application packet, which shall include official student transcripts. Unless exempted by the criteria in subsection D of this section, licensure assessments prescribed by the Board of Education shall be required.

D. Individuals who hold a valid out-of-state license (full credential without deficiencies) and who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time, successful teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in

a state other than Virginia are exempted from the professional teacher's assessment requirements.

First, the institution must have regional accreditation. Second, you need to check to determine whether the program has been state approved. Each state has its own authority for approving programs for the preparation of school personnel. The Virginia Board of Education approves programs for the preparation of teachers, administrators, and other licensed school personnel at Virginia institutions of higher education. Likewise, other states' boards approve programs in their respective states.

Please note: even though a college or university may have regional accreditation, the institution may or may not have received approval for programs (endorsement areas) for the purpose of licensure (or certification) in that state. Therefore, it is important to note that an individual who wishes to enroll in a program at a regionally accredited college or university leading to licensure must first check with the Department of Education in the appropriate state to verify that the institution has program approval and then request documentation from the institution that the program in which he or she plans to enroll is an approved program leading to licensure/certification in that state.

Information regarding Regional Accreditation can be obtained from the various regional accrediting agencies. A list of those agencies and their Web addresses can be found at: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/regional%20accreditation_organizations.pdf.