

Q&A of Alternative Educator License for Teaching Chinese in Ohio

Background:

During the 2006-07 school year, the State of Ohio funded the year-long Alternative Licensure Chinese Teacher Programs at the Ohio State University and Cleveland State University. However, if you have qualified academic background and relevant teaching experience, you can request for an Alternative Educator License through non-traditional route as provided in the Q&A below. (The Q&A is based on information from the Ohio Department of Education Office of Educator Licensure.)

Q&A about Alternative Educator License in Ohio

Q: *What is an Alternative Educator License in Ohio?*

A: The two-year, *non-renewable* Alternative Educator License was created in January 2000 in response to expected teacher shortages in *grades 7 through 12* and in special education in grades Kindergarten through 12. The Alternative Educator License is a non-traditional route for qualified baccalaureate degree-holders to transition to careers as classroom teachers.

Q: *What is required to obtain an Alternative Educator License for teaching Chinese?*

A: To qualify for an Alternative Educator License, you must at least

- Have a B.A. degree;
- Major in the subject area – Chinese language (GPA of 2.5 or above) or extensive work experience directly related to the area to be taught;
- Complete six semester hours of professional education coursework (GPA of 2.5 or above) within the past five years from a college approved to prepare teachers, including three semester hours in the developmental characteristics of the adolescent through young adult student and three semester hours in teaching methods;
- Be teaching or contracted to teach Chinese at a K-12 school in Ohio.

Q: *What materials are required to request for a review for Alternative Educator License for teaching Chinese?*

A: Because each applicant may have different qualifications, the approval of the Alternative Educator License for teaching Chinese is based on a case-by-case review. As a general rule, the following materials are required:

- A cover letter with background information and requesting a credential review for Ohio Alternative Educator License (in teaching Chinese);
- A resume;
- Verification of professional experience (letters of recommendation from professors of Chinese or K-12 school administrators in the U.S. about the candidate's experience related to teaching Chinese);

- Official transcripts of all college coursework (international academic credentials require a course by course analysis from an approved credentials evaluation service. For a listing of services that can perform this evaluation, visit the [ODE website for a list of international credentials evaluators](#));
- Documentation of any training, professional development work, accomplishments and recognition related to your license request;
- Any other materials related to the Alternative Educator License request.

The above materials should be sent to:
 Jennifer Kangas, Associate Director
 Office of Educator Licensure
 Ohio Department of Education
 25 S. Front Street, Mail Stop 105
 Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Please contact Jennifer Kangas at (614) 466-3593 or jennifer.kangas@ode.state.oh.us before sending your application material. Because the Alternative Educator License is approved on a case-by-case basis and each applicant is different, Ms. Kangas will be able to help you select the most relevant supporting documents for your application.

Q: Since the Alternative Educator License is only for teachers in grades 7-12, what kind of license do I need to request in order to teach Chinese in grades K-6?

A: If you are teaching Chinese in grades K-6 and do not have a license, please contact Jennifer Kangas at the Ohio Department of Education for possible ways of obtaining a multi-age teaching license, if you are qualified. Ms. Kangas can be reached at (614) 466-3593 or jennifer.kangas@ode.state.oh.us.

Q: Is there more information available on Alternative Educator License in Ohio?

A: Yes. You can get more information on Alternative Educator License from the following links:

- For information of the Ohio Administrative Rule on Alternative Educator License, go to <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3301-24-10>.
- For more information about Q&A on Alternative Educator License, go to the [ODE webpage](#).
- For more information about Alternative Educator License and regular teaching licenses (such as Provisional License), contact Jennifer Kangas at (614) 466-3593 or jennifer.kangas@ode.state.oh.us.

(By the OSU K-12 Chinese Flagship Program staff; September 14, 2007)