

NCTC Advising FAQ Teacher Education and Child Development

[AAT Pathways](#) and [Teacher Education and Child Development](#)

1. What degrees and certificates are offered?

At NCTC we have several plans available for teacher education and child development majors:

- Associate of Arts in Teaching EC-6th grade
- Associate of Arts in Teaching 4-8th grade
- Associate of Arts in Teaching 7-12th grade: This will depend on the subject matter that you wish to teach. Students seeking 7-12th grade certification will major in their subject matter (such as English, biology, math, etc.) and complete their teaching certification at the university once they transfer.
- Associate of Applied Science in Child Development
- Child Development Certificate

2. What can I do with these majors?

When a student receives their Associate of Arts in Teaching degree, they are able to enter the field of education and serve in capacities such as a substitute teacher, teaching/classroom assistant, and other support roles in school districts.

For students who are pursuing an AAS or Certificate in Child Development, these programs provide students with the ability to receive their CDA (Child Development Associate) credentials and work in daycare/child care in that capacity.

3. How can I decide which major is best for me?

The best way to determine which major to pursue (AA vs. AAS vs. Certificate) is best for you is to think about your short and long-term goals. If your goal is university transfer, and you are looking for the most flexible, transferable option, the AAT is best for you. If your goal is to enter the workforce, and a 4-year degree is either not a current or immediate goal, the AAS or Certificate programs will provide professional training and experience that is instantly applicable, as well as buildable in the future.

The best way to determine which pathway you need to follow, aside from your timeline goals, is to consider what grade level and/or subject matter you are interested in teaching. These different degree plans cover several grade levels, so even a generalized group such as “toddlers” or “middle school” gives you an idea of where to start.

4. What do I need to know about my core and pre-requisites for the AA pathway?

- EC-6 is generalist. Universities will have SPED, Bilingual, ESL certifications which do not affect the coursework at our level. That coursework will be completed at the university level.
- 4-8 is general, but has students pick a subject (English, History, Science, Math). Usually does not change much at our level, but good to keep an eye out for. There are some instances where we can offer additional electives depending on a university transfer plan.
- 7-12 is specific to the student's major. They will get their BA/BS in the subject they wish to teach, and pick up a teaching certification with it. They usually are not required to take EDUC 1301 or EDUC 2301.
- EDUC 1301 and EDUC 2301 must be taken in order. They each have a 16hr observation requirement. Right now, that's being done through online videos. There are no exemptions from taking these courses out of order.
- TECA 1311, TECA 1318, and TECA 1303 all have 16hr observations as well. TECA 1354 does not.
- The requirement for TECA (early childhood education) course(s) is based on a student's transfer goals. For example, UNT wants all 4 TECA courses. TWU wants TECA 1354. MSU wants TECA 1311. They are not included in AAT plans because they vary so much by institution.
- AAT is a technical degree plan, so if a student has a science course that doesn't fit (like A&P I for example), or an LPC credit that is not Literature, it can be subbed out.
- Students in AAT plans are recommended to seek a literature course for their Language, Philosophy, Culture core component. It is recommended at most schools, and is beneficial when sitting for the certification exam.

5. Can I use my Financial Aid?

Yes! As long as you are staying on plan and taking courses required for your major. You will work with your advisor to create an academic plan that works best for you.

6. How can I complete this degree? Can it be done online and/or is this degree campus specific?

Most of the courses in these majors can be done online, however you do have student teaching and classroom observation requirements for many of the actual education courses in these majors so prepare for these in-person requirements!

7. Are these majors and programs transferable?

All NCTC undergraduate credits can be transferred to other Texas schools as well as out of state, but the question to ask is, “What major at my intended university needs these specific credits”? Core will fulfill core curriculum requirements, but it is important to check the degree plan at the university you plan to attend to know what classes are needed and to see which of your NCTC credits will fulfill those requirements.

Transfer Guides are a good source for knowing how your classes can transfer. Here are some great resources from area universities:

- **UNT:** <https://registrar.unt.edu/transfer-guides>
- **TWU:** <https://twu.edu/transfer-resources/texas-community-college-transfer-guides/>
- **MSU Texas (Midwestern):** <https://msutexas.edu/admissions/equivalencies.php>

The Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) and Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) will transfer to several North Texas universities as well as some out of state schools. Certificates do not transfer directly to a university, but they do all feed directly into the correlating AAS degree program. Then, once you have completed the AAS, you may transfer into a BAAS (Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences) program.

Working with both your advisor at NCTC and a transfer advisor at your intended transfer institution is important to make sure the process is as seamless as possible.

8. How long will it take to complete this degree?

Certificate plans are designed to be completed in 1 year (3 semesters). The AA, AAT and AAS degree plans typically take 2 years; however, students are welcome to take classes at their own pace, just keep in mind this will impact your graduation timeline AND certain courses are only offered in certain semesters, once a year. Remember we have all these [different semesters and ways for you to combine classes](#) throughout the year!

- Summer terms offer 5.5 or 10-week options
- Fall and Spring terms offer 16 and 8-week options
- Wintermester and Maymester courses are 4-5 weeks

How many classes you take each semester depends on other commitments such as work hours, travel time, and/or family responsibilities, however the important thing is that you keep going and take classes in the best combination for you to complete successfully! Here are some things to consider when determining how to balance your school schedule with other variables in your life:

$$(Clock\ Hours\ of\ the\ Course^*) \times (2-3\ Study\ Hours) \% (Number\ of\ Weeks\ in\ the\ Semester\ or\ Term^{**}) = Total\ Weekly\ Time\ Commitment\ for\ School$$

*The “Clock Hours” of a course can be found in “Find Courses” section of MyNCTC after you click on a specific course name/number. Most 3-hour courses are around 48 Clock Hours.

**Number of Weeks in a Course.

9. Will the credits I have from another college be applied to this degree and how do I apply them?

This will vary, pending on where and when you took them, and whether or not the courses you took apply to your major or pathway. To have your transcripts evaluated to transfer in any applicable credits, you will need to complete a [Transcript Evaluation Request](#). Transfer credits are NOT automatically evaluated and applied. While you are waiting on your transcripts to be evaluated, you are able to work with your advisor to verify pre-requisites and to pick classes you don't possibly have credit for already.

10. Which [NCTC advisor](#) or faculty can I contact for more information?

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11. Where can I access the recording of the Accounting and Business Q&A session with NCTC advisors and faculty?

Just click the image below or visit [NCTC Student Life on YouTube](#) to locate any number of great videos!

