

University of Houston's Alternative Certification Program (ACP) + STELLAR

Winter 2025/2026 *(info subject to change)*

Your Leadership Team

Leadership team



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Clinical Professor &
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University of Houston



ACP program manager

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Alternative Certification Program

University of Houston



Undergraduate programs

Kaitlyn Dempsey

Curriculum and Instruction

University of Houston



Certification expert

Sana Thalho

Texas Teaching Certification

University of Houston



About Teaching and ACP

Why teach?



TEACHERS MATTER



QUALITY OF LIFE



FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Traditional certification vs. Alternative certification

- Traditional route
- Teach in TX while gaining certification
 - Full-time salary
 - *Program benchmarks must be met*
 - Benefits



What does ACP mean?

- **A**lternative (accelerated) **C**ertification **P**rogram
- Teach while you work on completing certification – work on an intern certificate
- Start teaching August 2026
 - All schools require acceptance into a certification program


What is needed to teach in Texas?

1. A bachelor's degree
2. **Educator prep program** (*UH ACP*)
3. **Complete certification** (*UH ACP*)
4. **Apply to teach** (*UH ACP*)
5. Background check



UH ACP Requirements

- ✓ Bachelor's degree by May 2026
- ✓ 2.5 GPA
- ✓ All previous official transcripts
- ✓ Resume
- ✓ 12-15 Content Hours
 - EC-6 (elementary): 12 hours total of math, history, and English
 - 4-8, 7-12 English/history: 12 hours
 - 4-8, 7-12 Math/science: 15 hours
 - *You most likely have already completed these hours within your bachelor's degree*



International degree?
Watch this [brief video](#) on how
to apply

Certification areas

- EC-6 Core Subjects
- EC-6 Core Subjects + Bilingual Supplemental
- EC-6 Core Subjects + Special Education
- EC-6 Core Subjects + English as a second language (ESL)
- EC-12 Art
- EC-12 Languages Other Than English (LOTE) – Spanish
- EC-12 Special education
- 4-8 English
- 4-8 Mathematics
- 4-8 Science
- 4-8 Social Studies
- 7-12 English
- 7-12 History
- 7-12 Mathematics
- 7-12 Science
- 7-12 Social Studies



81% of UH education certifications are teaching certifications.

At UH, we've certified over 4,500 educators and this cohort will soon add to that number.



Why UH?

Why choose UH?

- Job placement assistance
- Certification support
- TEA-approved
- Coursework led by UH faculty
- Strong reputation of success
- Robust coaching with face-to-face interaction



Job Support

- We'll **support** you through the entire process.
- Being flexible with your grade levels and subjects will help you **land a job** faster!
- **Benefit** from our trusted district partnerships.



97% job placement




HUMBLE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Established 1919



CYPRESS FAIRBANKS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEARN • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE • DREAM



ALDINE
Independent School District

Three additional partners added for 2026 academic year!



Spring Branch
Independent School District



KATY
Katy Independent School District




KIPP HOUSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Lief
Independent School District



PASADENA
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



GOOSE CREEK
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



LAMAR CISD
A PROUD TRADITION | A BRIGHT FUTURE



FBIISD
INSPIRE • EQUIP • IMAGINE



Pearland Independent School District
PREPARE • PERFORM • PRODUCE



CLEAR CREEK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

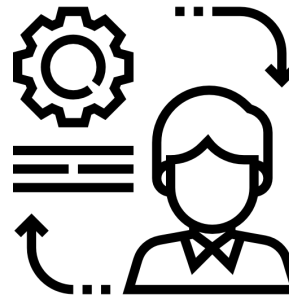


ALVIN ISD
Each student, every day.

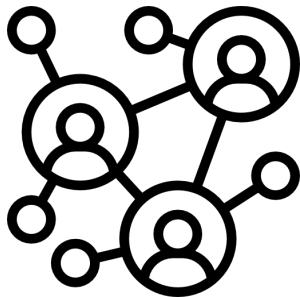
Program components



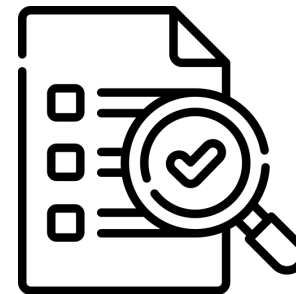
UH **faculty member** will **coach** and support you.



Learn and **practice** teaching in a **supportive** and **professional** setting.



Train and teach with a **cohort** of fellow ACP students.



Receive **test prep** and **support** with **certification**.

Phase 1: Earning your Statement of Eligibility and finding a Job!

1. Begin UHACP coursework
 1. Online modules available once enrollment fee is paid
 2. Face-to-Face sessions
 1. Early start: Starting in January (Saturdays), OR
 2. June Intensive
 1. You can combine these based on your schedule
2. Complete Field Based Hours
3. Pass certification exam(s)
4. Apply for Intern Certificate once the above is complete
5. Criminal background check
6. Apply for jobs



Phase 2: The intern year - Make a Difference!

1. Monthly face-to-face workshops (Saturdays or June)
2. Monthly Tuesday Zoom seminars
3. Asynchronous online modules
4. Coaching support
5. Pass PPR Exam



In-Person Workshop Options

	Face-to-Face Workshops 2025/2026	Dates
1	Building Positive Relationships	Sat., Jan. 17 -or- Wed., Jun. 10
2	Establishing Routines for a Positive Learning Environment	Sat., Feb. 7 -or- Fri., Jun. 12
3	Assessment	Sat., Mar. 7 -or- Mon., Jun. 15
4	Planning for Instruction	Sat., Apr. 11 -or- Wed., Jun. 17
5	Special Education and IEP Process	Sat., Apr. 25 -or- Thu., Jun. 18
6	Delivering Instruction	Sat., May 9 -or- Mon., Jun. 22
7	Monitor and Adjust Instruction	Sat., May 16 -or- Wed., Jun. 24
8	Setting the Stage	Mon., Jun. 8
9	Performance Assessment and Internship Launching	Fri., Jun. 26

Phase 3: Full-time teaching

You're a teacher!

- Full-time salary
- Full-time benefits
- Making a difference!



Program Costs

Program options

Options	Costs
Pay in full	\$6,000 (SAVE \$500)
Make payments	\$6,500

- *NO application fee*
- *NO interest*
- *NO ongoing fees*
- *Some school districts offer payroll deduction*

Program payment structure

Date	Payment
Application fee	\$0
Enrollment fee (access online coursework, three PreSOE F2F workshops, Field Based Experiences)	\$500 (1 payment)
Payments prior to teaching (remainder of PreSOE F2F workshops)	\$ 500 (2 payments, due March and May)
Academic year 2026 - 2027	\$500 (10 payments)
Total cost:	\$6,500*

*Total cost can be paid in full.

Payroll deduction

Offers payroll deduction	Does not offer Pay UH directly	Considering payroll deduction
Alief	Humble	Houston
Fort Bend	Pasadena	Cy-Fair
Alvin	Pearland	
Aldine	Spring Branch	
	Lamar CISD	
	Clear Creek	
	Katy	

***Subject to change**

Additional costs to consider

Item	Payment
2026 Intern Certificate	\$78
Fingerprinting and background check	\$50.25
TExES Exam(s) (including PPR exam)	\$116/ exam
240 Tutoring (test prep software)	\$49.99/month * \$25 with ACP discount code
Parking	\$20/visit (roughly)
2027 Standard Certificate	\$78

***240 Guarantee: If you achieve a 90% or higher score on the practice test at the end of a study guide but still do not pass the actual certification exam, you are eligible for a refund**

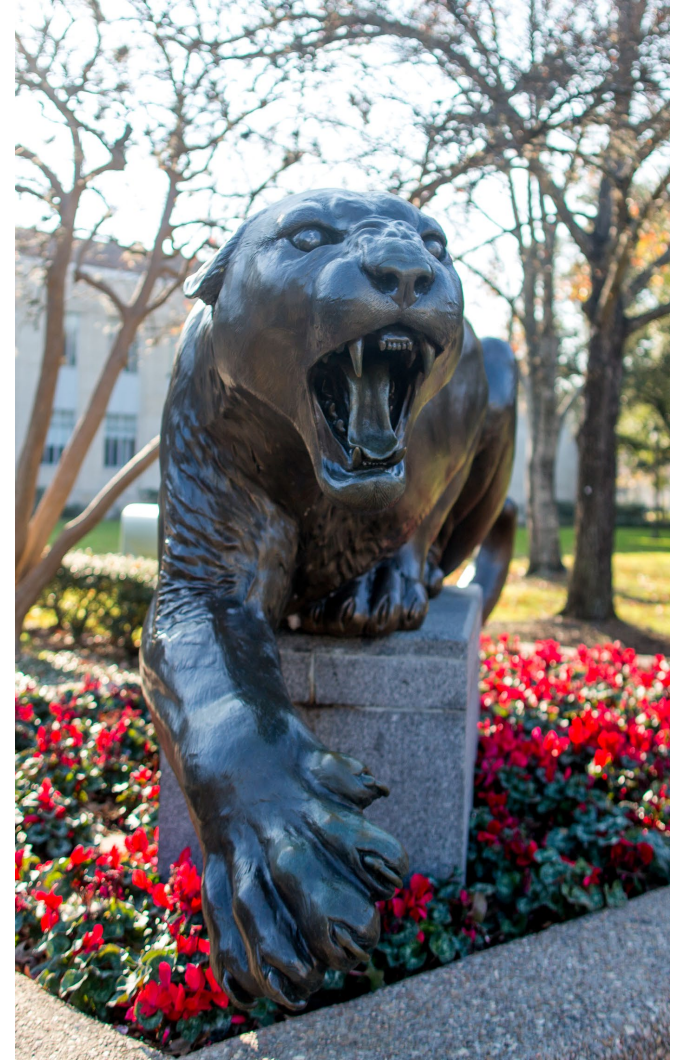
What is STELLAR?

- Partnership with the ExxonMobil Foundation
- Support Teacher STEM Training (TST)
- Goals
 - Improve the STEM knowledge of math and science teachers
 - Enhance teachers' ability to teach STEM content
 - Provide teacher STEM training at no cost to teachers
- UH's ACP + science or math = funding

**STELLAR = STEM Teacher
Training: Enhancing Learning,
Leadership, and Academic Rigor**

Requirements

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours in science **or** math
2. Accepted into **ACP**
3. Obtain a job teaching:
 - Science **or** math
 - **Middle school** grade level
 - E.G.: 6th, 7th, or 8th grade math or science
 - **Houston ISD, KIPP-Houston, or Spring ISD**



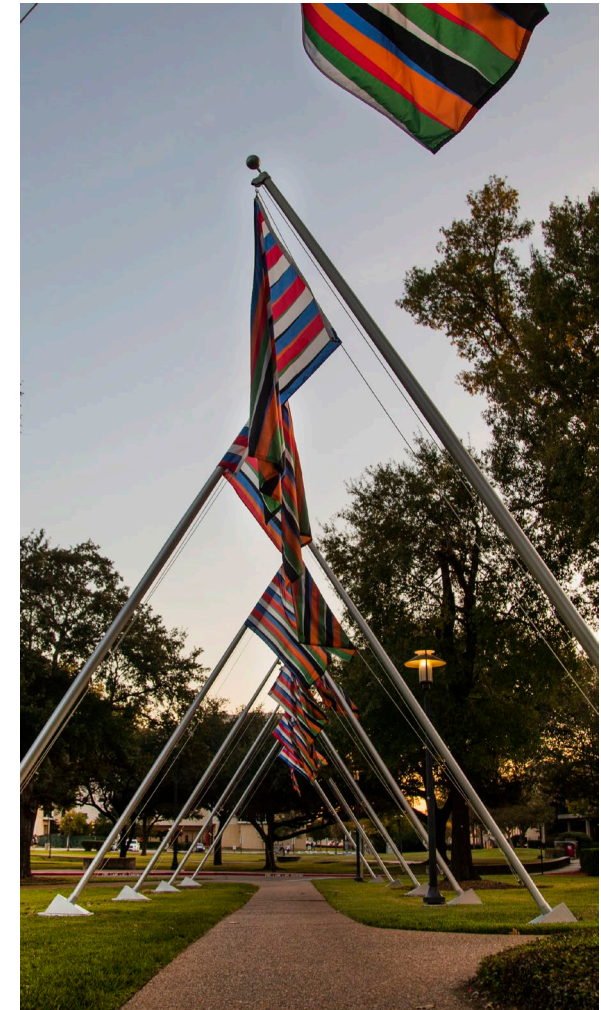
Certification areas

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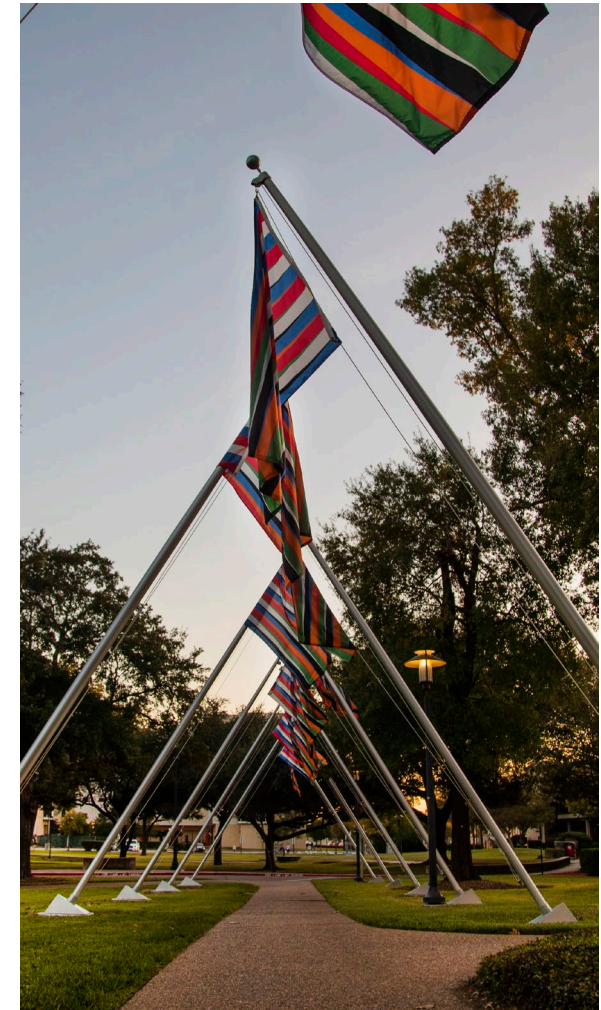
Math examples

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours **math**
 - Bachelor of science
 - Typically 12 credit hours/4 math classes
 - Examples for math include:
 - College algebra
 - Calculus
 - Trigonometry
 - Statistics
 - Linear Algebra



Science examples

1. A bachelor's degree with **15** credit hours of **science**
 - Bachelor's of Science varies by university
 - Examples for science include:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Precalculus or Calculus (often 4 credits)



TX PACT exam

- What if I don't have content hours?
 - PACT
 - Doesn't guarantee acceptance
 - Cost: \$106 - \$131

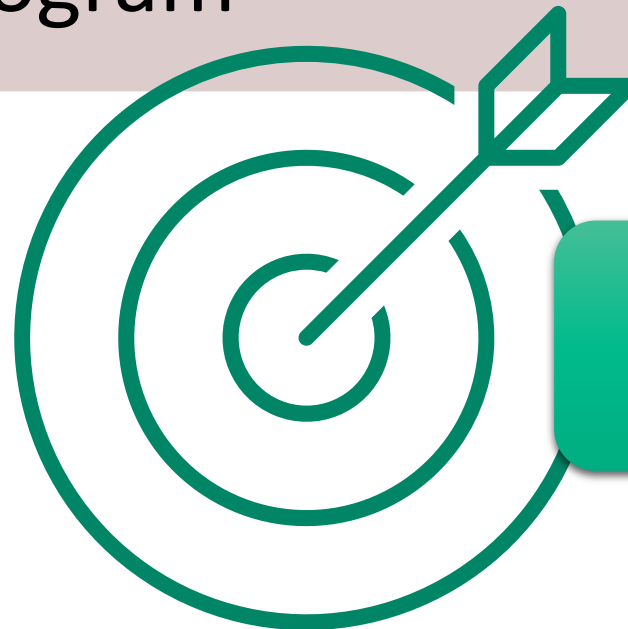


Participating districts



Program cost

Application fee	\$0
UH ACP Program	\$6,500



Program cost covered by
ExxonMobil

Additional certification costs

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2027 Standard Certificate	\$78

Next steps: apply!

1. Apply to [UH ACP](#)
2. Apply to [STELLAR](#) (*if applicable*)



UH ACP application



Alternative Teacher Certification Application Portal

Alternative Teacher Certification Application is now available!

Login Section

If you already have an existing account, please **log in** here.

Create Account Section

If you are new to us, please **create an account** here.

UH ACP application time consideration

- Review the [Texas Administrative Code of Ethics](#) (sections 247.1 and 247.2)
Estimated time: 15 minutes
- Watch the [TEA Teacher Ethics Training Series](#) (10 short videos)
Estimated time: 1 hour
- Official college transcripts to UHACP@Central.uh.edu
Estimated time: 1 week
- Prepare to record your admission video.
Estimated time: 20 minutes

UH ACP application video

In the ACP application, you will record a 3–5-minute video responding to the following:

1. Thinking of your desired certification, why do you want to teach this age and/or content?
2. How will you be an effective teacher?
3. What is your biggest challenge for completing your teaching certification?
4. How will you support the learning of all the students in your classroom?
5. What experience do you have that has helped prepare you to be a teacher?
6. What is your teaching philosophy?

UH ACP Requirements

- ✓ Bachelor's degree by May 2026
- ✓ 2.5 GPA
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- ✓ All previous official transcripts
 - UHACP@central.uh.edu

STELLAR application

University of Houston | ExxonMobil Foundation

Priority Deadline: January 10, 2026. Rolling applications close March 10, 2026.

UH STELLAR offers early-career HISD, KIPP - Houston, or Spring ISD Title 1 campus middle school STEM teachers a year-long purposeful learning opportunity. Applicants may select to be considered for the alternative certification route (provided at no cost) OR the professional development only route (which includes stipend).

[Start now](#)

Application Preparation

Two important questions:

1. How might participation in STELLAR support your personal professional growth as a teacher? (150 words maximum)
2. What strengths would you bring to the STELLAR learning community? (150 words maximum)

STELLAR Requirements

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 - Science **or** math
 - **Houston ISD, KIPP-Houston, or Spring ISD**

Next step: **APPLY!**

UH ACP
STELLAR

*Application fee: **\$0***

ACP and STELLAR deadline:
Saturday, January 10, 2026



Questions?



Congratulations!

You've taken the first step towards a rewarding career in education!

Don't forget — **we're here for you!**

Email us anytime at:
uhacp@central.uh.edu



THANK YOU!