

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Master of Arts in Bilingual Bicultural Studies
EC-6 BBL Generalist Teacher Certification Program (BITE-C) Concentration

Overview of the EC-6 BBL Generalist Graduate Teacher Certification

Program Requirements The graduate EC-6 BBL Generalist Teacher Certification Program (BITE-C), is a 36 semester-hour (non-thesis), field-based program intended for individuals who wish to obtain a Texas teacher certification as part of their Master's degree.

The BITE-C degree program provides candidates with the opportunity to acquire a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Bilingual Bicultural Studies, and initial certification in early childhood through 6th grade general education.

Admission deadlines: Admission to the BITE-C is a rolling admission (Fall, Spring or Summer).

Admission Requirements for BITE-C

Admission to BITE-C requires the following:

- A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution. (Note: students who earned a degree outside of the U.S. must show evidence of English language proficiency. This is a state requirement. Contact the department for further details regarding this requirement.)
- Full and clear admission into the MA Bilingual Bicultural Studies degree program in the Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies.
 - A GPA of 3.0 or better in the last 60 semester hours completed is required for 'clear' admission into the graduate program. Students admitted on 'probation' (2.7-2.99 GPA) will not be eligible to participate in the BITE-C.
- Evidence of a clear criminal background check. This is a state requirement.
- Evidence of ability in public speaking and critical thinking. This is a state requirement for all teacher certification candidates. Transcripts will be evaluated to determine if applicants meet these requirements through their previous coursework.
- Passing Scores from the TExES exam for EC-6 Generalist. Information on how to sign up for the exam can be found at: http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/epppact/#Who_can_take_PACT

TExES Information

Texas law requires every person seeking educator certification to perform satisfactorily on comprehensive examinations. These examinations ensure that each educator has the necessary content and professional knowledge to perform satisfactorily in Texas public schools. Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) were developed for this purpose.

- For International Applicants: Passing score on the TOEFL Exam: 550 paper/80 internet **OR** Minimum IELTS Score: 6.5. Contact BBL department for information regarding taking this test if English is not your first language or you received your degree outside of the U.S.
- Score on the ALPS (Assessment Language Proficiency in Spanish) exam (contact department for information regarding taking this test. This is a Spanish proficiency test. Dependent on score, candidate may be required to enroll in Spanish language coursework).
- Ability to complete the full 12 weeks of clinical teaching as required by the state for certification indicated your signed *Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations* form. (Inability to complete this requirement will disqualify an individual from admission to the program.)
- Sign *Memorandum of Understanding* (attached).

Course Load Schedule and Field Placements

Once admitted, candidates must take a minimum of 3 hours of course work each semester. (Clinical teaching semester requires 6 hours of enrollment).

Once admitted to the teacher certification, you must also complete a **30 hour field placement in a local school during the long (fall or spring) semesters**. Each teacher candidate will meet for a 3 hour block once a week for 10 weeks in an assigned field classroom. This is a state requirement for certification and cannot be waived for any reason. All placements will be made by the COEHD Coordinator of Field Placements. **Each student must show availability to complete this requirement by signing the *Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations* form that accompanies the *BITE-C Application* form.**

Past graduate candidates have used vacation time, personal days, or made other arrangements with employers to complete the required field work. This field experience meets the state's minimum 30-hour requirement for fieldwork in teacher certification programs.

Final Program Semester (clinical teaching or internship)

There are two options: Clinical teaching or Internship

- Clinical Teaching*. Clinical teaching will occur in the last semester of your program upon completion of all of your coursework for the degree, and requires a full time commitment all day, every day, for one semester of supervised practicum in a public school. This is a state requirement and cannot be waived for any reason.
- Internship (Teacher of Record)*. In lieu of clinical teaching, candidates may complete a year-long internship, which is salaried by the public school district. Requirements for Internship include:

- Candidate secures job offer in writing (we recommend attending job-fairs, professional networking, etc.)
- Have completed all graduate education courses (some exceptions may apply)
- Passing scores on all TExES exams
 - TExES EC-6 Generalist
 - TExES EC-6 Bilingual content (supplemental)
 - TExES EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam)
 - TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT)
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA in MA-BITE graduate coursework
- Documented completion of 30 hrs. of field observation
- Candidate completes all required internship forms with teacher certification office advisor for approval.
- Get approval from certification advisor & BITE-C coordinator before participating in Internship

SAMPLE Course Load Schedules

Note: This schedule is for those candidates taking a minimum of 6 hours and may be altered based upon individual schedule, plan, and programmatic changes.

Fall Graduate Admission

	Fall I	Spring I	Summer I	Fall II	Spring-	Fall *
Course schedule and field work schedule	Begin core courses	Begin Certification Coursework; Apply for admission to BITE-C	Begin Certification Coursework; Attend reviews for state exams	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for practice tests for state exams 30 hour Field Experience	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for state exams	Clinical teaching semester (12 full time weeks) Sit for state exams
Course hours and Modules	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hour credits *comprehensive exams

Spring Graduate Admission

	Spring I	Summer I	Fall I	Spring II	Summer II	Fall II*
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Course schedule and field work schedule	Begin core courses	Begin Certification Coursework; Apply for admission to BITE-C	Begin Certification Coursework; Attend reviews for state exams	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for practice tests for state exams 30 hour Field Experience	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for state exams	Clinical teaching semester (12 full time weeks) Sit for state exams
Course hours and Modules	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hour credits *comprehensive exams

* 30 hour Field Experience not offered during summer

Summer Graduate Admission

	Su I	Fall I	Spring I	Su II	Fall II	Spring II*
Course schedule and field work schedule	Begin core courses	Begin Certification Coursework; 30 hour Field Experience	Continue Certification Coursework; Attend reviews for state exams	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for practice tests for state exams	Continue Certification Coursework; Sit for state exams	Clinical teaching semester (12 full time weeks) Sit for state exams
Course hours and Modules	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hours	6 course hour credits *comprehensive exams

*Comprehensive exams for the MA in Bilingual Bicultural Studies after completion of 30 hours of graduate coursework. Check with your Academic Advisor for information regarding comprehensive exams.

Eligibility Requirements: Recommendation for Teacher Certification

After admission to BITE-C, teacher candidates must ensure that they meet University and State requirements to satisfy eligibility for teacher certification. In order to be recommended for teacher certification through BITE-C, the State of Texas requires successful completion of a teacher certification program along with the completion of all MA in Bilingual Bicultural Studies degree requirements.

This includes:

1. Successfully complete all courses and comprehensive exams that are required for the Master of Arts in BITE-C degree with the required 3.0 GPA.
2. Documented participation in at least 30 hours of field-based classroom observation prior to internship or clinical teaching.
3. Passing scores on the appropriate TExES generalist, content area, Spanish language, and PPR exams. UTSA requires its teacher candidates to participate in a test review

session and to take a practice test exam before they are approved to take the state required exam. Scores on practice tests do not determine eligibility to take the state exams.

4. Successfully complete a full time, non-paid, 12 week or longer semester of clinical teaching experience at the end of the program.

OR

5. Successfully complete year-long full time internship in which candidate is hired as teacher of record by a Texas **public** school district.

Application Procedures for UTSA Graduate Teacher Certification Program

Students who are interested in obtaining a master's degree with initial teacher certification must complete two separate application processes. Students must meet all the requirements and turn in all application materials for both the graduate degree and the teacher certification.

Students who are interested in beginning BITE-C will need to be accepted to their UTSA graduate program first, and then turn in all application materials for the BITE-C to the Bicultural-Bilingual Department.

Important: Applications to graduate school and to the teacher certification program are two separate applications. Admission to the graduate school does not automatically enroll a student in the teacher certification program.

Apply to Graduate School

- a. Online application available at <http://www.graduateschool.utsa.edu>.
- b. Choose the correct degree for your certification: MA BITE
- c. Students must have a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 graded semester hours for clear admission.
- d. Submit official copies of ALL transcripts from every college and university you have attended. Make sure they are sent to the UTSA Graduate School.

University of Texas at San Antonio
Attn: The Graduate School
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Students interested in pursuing the BITE-C must apply and be accepted to the graduate program prior to applying to the teacher preparation program. Students should reserve ample time to request all transcripts from other colleges and universities and track their application materials to ensure they are received by the Graduate School. Official decisions by the Graduate School take about 2-3 weeks. During peak application periods, decisions may take longer. Ask that your transcripts be sent electronically to The University of Texas at San Antonio.

2. Complete the BITE-C Application

All teaching certification application materials will be turned in to the Bicultural-Bilingual Studies Student Development Specialist and includes:

- a. BITE-C Application form with specified education and related experience
- b. Copies of acceptance to graduate school which includes evidence of 3.0 GPA and clear admission (no conditions)
- c. Signed “Statement of Agreement to Complete Pre-service Field Observations and Clinical Teaching” form
- d. Evidence of clear and current criminal background check. This can be obtained from the San Antonio Police Department by visiting:
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/REPORTS.asp#background?res=168o&ver=true>
- e. Scores on the EC-6 Generalist TExES exam. Information on how to sign up for the exam can be found at: See: http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who_can_take_PACT
- f. Signed Texas Teachers’ Code of Ethics

All of the BITE-C Application Materials are due to the BBL Student Development Specialist. Incomplete applications will NOT be reviewed. Applications may be mailed to the following address or hand-delivered to the department. Email applications will not be accepted.

Student Development Specialist
Department of Bilingual Bicultural Studies
College of Education of Human Development
University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

BITE-C Application Form -- Page 1

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Banner Id _____

Address: _____ Phone(home/cell) _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Education: List all school attended. Attach an unofficial copy of transcripts from all schools.

College/University	Major	Graduation Date	Degree

Teaching experience: List any teaching experience you have (school, after school, daycare, volunteer, etc.)

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:

I understand that I must abide by all state and program requirements in order to complete the UTSA Graduate Teacher Certification Program. I understand that if my GPA falls below a 3.0 at any time during the program, I will be ineligible to continue in the certification program. I also understand that if for any reason I am removed from the program (if I become ineligible or choose to leave the program), I must complete all conditions of admission as stated on my Dean's condition sheet, including but not limited to, background coursework.

I also certify that I am not concurrently enrolled in another teacher certification program.

Printed name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

BITE-C Application Form -- Page 2
(Please Print Clearly)

*Statement of Agreement to Complete Preservice Field Observations
and Clinical Semester*

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:

30-hour Field Experience Requirement

The BITE-C requires an initial 30 hours of field observations in classrooms in the public schools during the first fall semester after acceptance into the Graduate Teacher Certification Program. This is a state requirement. This experience requires BITE-C candidates to spend time during the day in a public school classroom at least one day a week for a three hour minimum block of time for the duration of the semester. The UTSA Coordinator of Field Placements will assign schools and classrooms. Schedules for classroom observations will be determined by the BITE-C student in dialogue with the assigned classroom teacher and the Coordinator. Candidates must have time available during the day on a weekly basis to meet this program requirement.

My signature below indicates that I understand the requirement for 30 hours of field observations in the BITE-C during my program, and attests to the fact that I will be able to meet this requirement.

Printed name

Signature

12-Week Clinical Teaching Requirement

The BITE-C also requires a full, non-paid, 12 week clinical teaching experience in classrooms in the public schools during the last semester of your program. This is a state requirement. Candidates must have time available during the day on a weekly basis for 12 consecutive weeks according to the UTSA schedule for this experience to meet this program requirement. This experience requires BITE-C candidates to spend full days from the start of the school day until the end of the school day every day for 12 weeks. Placement for the clinical teaching experience is coordinated by the Director of Clinical Teaching.

My signature below indicates that I understand the requirement for 12 full weeks of clinical teaching in the BITE-C during the last semester of my program, and attests to the fact that I will be able to meet this requirement.

Printed name

Signature

BITE-C Application Form -- Page 3
(Please Print Clearly)

Please read the Texas Teachers' Code of Ethics found at:

<http://education.utsa.edu/images/uploads/Texas%20Teacher%20Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf>

Following the reading of the Code of Ethics, please read this affirmation and sign that you have read the Code and wish to comply with its requirements. This is required by the state for all teacher candidate applications.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR APPLICATION:

**State Board for Educator Certification
Texas Educators' Code of Ethics
Texas Administrative Code 247.2**

I affirm that I will comply with standard practices and ethical conduct toward students, professional colleagues, school officials, parents, and members of the community and shall safeguard academic freedom, as set forth by the Texas Administrative Code #247.2. As a Texas educator, in maintaining the dignity of the profession, I shall respect and obey the law, demonstrate personal integrity, and exemplify honesty. In exemplifying ethical relations with colleagues, I shall extend just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession. In accepting a position of public trust, I shall measure success by the progress of each student toward realization of his or her potential as an effective citizen. In fulfilling responsibilities in the community, I shall cooperate with parents and others to improve the public schools of the community.

I hereby affirm that I have read and thoroughly understand the Texas Educators' Code of Ethics TAC 247.2, and shall abide by all enforceable standards of this rule.

Educator Candidate's Signature

Date

Department of Bilingual-Bicultural Studies

Memorandum of Intent to Apply for Admission to the TESL-C or the BITE-C

This letter and my signature indicate that I am intending to apply for the teacher preparation program in TESL-C or BITE-C (circle one). I understand that:

- I will meet with my program advisor every semester to ensure that I following the correct of program of study for teacher certification.
- I can take coursework for the degree before applying for admission to the teacher preparation program;
- I must take and pass the PACT test in my certification area as a requirement for admission to the teacher preparation program.
- I must apply to the teacher preparation program upon completion of entry requirements.
- I understand that courses taken outside the approved program of study will not be counted toward teacher certification and that required courses may not be substituted.
- I can continue course work in the degree and complete my Master's degree even if I am not admitted to the teacher preparation program for whatever reason.

My signature attests to the fact that I have read and understand the above information related to the teacher preparation program for TESL-C and BITE-C.

Print Name

Signature

Date: _____

Master of Arts in Bilingual Bicultural Studies EC-6 BBL Generalist Teacher Certification Program (BITE-C) Concentration

Step-by-Step Guide

Pre-Certification Admission

1. Start taking core “Pre-Cert” coursework (See BITE-C course sequence with your advisor)
 - a. BBL 5113 Theoretical Foundations of BBL Education
 - b. BBL 5063 Biliteracy in Bilingual Classroom
 - c. BBL 5033 Bilingual Content Instruction
 - d. ESL 5013 Foundations of Second Language Acquisition
2. Begin taking training modules (you must obtain 3 CEUs (Continuing Education Units/Credits) for each Module category)
3. Enroll in ATE (Academy of Teacher Education) eCommunity of Practice (eCofP) (required)
ATE eCommunity of Practice: Go to this website, create an account, and enroll in eCofP:
<https://ecofp.ate.utsa.edu/login/index.php>
4. Provide evidence of a clear and current Criminal Background Check
This can be obtained from the San Antonio Police Department by visiting:
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapd/REPORTS.asp#background?res=1680&ver=true>
5. Take “Entrance” TExES EC-6 Generalist exam. See: http://cms.texas-ets.org/epp/eppact/#Who_can_take_PACT
6. Sign Memorandum of Understanding (attached).

Once Admitted to Certification Track

1. Complete 30 hour Field Experience
2. Satisfactorily complete all graduate coursework and requirements
3. Complete “Practice” tests (Meet with advisor to enroll for test.)
4. During last semester, enroll in BBL/C&I 6946 (Clinical Teaching) or
5. For those completing an internship enroll in BBL/C&I 6943 (Internship) in both Fall and Spring
6. Complete Student/Clinical Teaching or Internship requirements
7. Take all other TeXes during Student/Clinical Teaching or Internship
 - TExES EC-6 Bilingual content (supplemental)
 - TExES EC-12 PPR (Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Exam)
 - TExES Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT)

More detailed information regarding Teacher Certification at the University of Texas at San Antonio can be found by accessing the “Teacher Preparation Program Handbook” :

<http://education.utsa.edu/images/uploads/FAL12%20Teacher%20Education%20Program%20Handbook%202013.pdf>