



Dear Future Teacher:

Have you always wanted to teach or to make a difference in a young person's life? If so, FCCJ Teach First Coast, an alternative certification program, may be for you.

FCCJ's Teach First Coast is a response to the teacher shortage in Florida. This program prepares non-education majors with a bachelor's degree to obtain professional (not temporary) certification in needed content areas. Program participants will complete a competency-based alternative certification program. They will also prepare to sit for the Subject Area Exam, Professional Educator Test, and the General Knowledge Test. All Teach First Coast students hired as teachers or in their first year of teaching must participate in the required mentoring program.

The requirements for admission to Teach First Coast are as follows:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, with a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Completed FCCJ Teach First Coast application packet and gathered all required documentation
- Submitted an application for a Statement of Status of Eligibility to the Florida Department of Education with the \$75 fee (you will also need to send the Dept. of Education a sealed transcript)
- Schedule an interview with a program advisor

If you are accepted into the Teach First Coast program, you will also be asked to complete an FCCJ Membership Application.

There are many opportunities for you to make a difference in the life of a child, so don't delay. Take the first step toward becoming a teacher by completing this information packet.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Foley
EPI Program Coordinator
904/633-8285

Victoria Bennett
EPI Program Advisor
904/633-8151

PDF File contains:

1. Teach First Coast Application Checklist
2. Teach First Coast Alternative Certification Program Application
3. Security Background Check Form
4. Teach First Coast: Disposition for Teaching (self-evaluation)
5. Course Content

Teach First Coast Application Checklist

To be considered for the FCCJ Teach First Coast Alternative Certification Program, gather the following:

1. A completed Teach First Coast Application
2. A resume or curriculum vitae
3. Official transcripts from all accredited colleges and universities where a bachelor's degree was earned (Bring your unopened, sealed transcript to your interview. Do not send it to the college in advance)
4. A one-page, typed, double-spaced, brief philosophy of teaching
5. A completed disposition for teaching (self-evaluation), included in application packet. You may create a separate Word document for your answers to these items.
6. Proof of having applied for an "Official Statement of Status of Eligibility" (SOE) to teach in Florida or your SOE if you have received it. The SOE application can be accessed through the Florida Department of Education web site at <https://certify.fldoe.org/publicweb/default.aspx>
7. Current driver's license
8. Voter's registration card
9. Vehicle Registration
10. If under the age of 24, you must also provide a notarized copy of the previous year's tax return

Once you have gathered ALL required documents, please call to schedule an interview. You must bring your completed application & all related documents to the interview.

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Teach First Coast: Alternative Teacher Certification Program

APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Date of Birth: (optional) _____ Please provide last 4 digits of Social Security # _____

Local Address: _____
Street Apt. # City State Zip

Permanent Address: _____
Street Apt. # City State Zip

Home phone # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

Male

Female

1) **What is your highest degree?** Bachelor's _____
Master's _____
Ph.D./Doctorate _____

*Undergraduate Major: _____ Minor: _____

College/University: _____ City/State: _____

GPA: _____

*Graduate Major: _____ Minor: _____

College/University: _____ City/State: _____

GPA: _____

**Please submit official transcripts for the colleges from which you received a degree.*

2) **What level do you plan to teach?**
Elementary (K-6) _____
Middle School (5-9) Subject Area _____ High School (6-12) Subject Area _____

3) **When did you first seriously consider teaching as a career?**

Elementary School _____ Middle School _____ High School _____ Later/Career Change _____

4) **How did you hear about the Educator Preparation Institute, Teach First Coast?**

Another student _____ A teacher _____ An advisor _____ Presentation _____ News article _____
Poster _____ Brochure _____ Web site _____ Other _____

5) **Did you complete an application to the Florida Department of Education for a Temporary Certificate?** _____

6) **Do you have your Statement of Status of Eligibility letter?** _____

TEACHING GOALS

What are your teaching field(s) of interest:

___ Math ___ English ___ Science ___ Other (_____)

Secondary Field(s) of Interest:

___ Reading ___ ESL/ESOL ___ Exceptional Education

In which county(ies) are you planning to teach? _____

Are you presently working as a substitute teacher or paraprofessional teacher aid? _____

In which county? _____

Have completed an interview with Duval County: Yes No

Have accepted a job offer from Duval County: Yes No

Have accepted a job offer from another Florida School District: Yes No

For more information or to speak to an advisor call: 904/633-8151 or 904/633-8285



Security Background Check Form

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____

Sex: Male Female Race: _____

By signing this form, you are consenting to a criminal background check at your own expense.

Signature: _____

At the time of employment or before your field experience, whichever comes first, your fingerprints will be researched by state and federal law enforcement agencies. Sealed or expunged records must be revealed to the School Board of Duval County pursuant to F.S. 943.0585. Your possible employment with County School Districts will depend upon successful processing of your background and fingerprints. The following questions must be answered truthfully. **Your omission of any criminal history information may result in your immediate termination from employment and dismissal from the Teach First Coast Alternative Certification Program.**

Pursuant to Florida Statute 943.0585, Criminal History Record Expunction or Sealing, persons to be employed by a school district must answer question #4. To omit a response or to be untruthful in your response, **regardless of any previous information received from your attorney or a court, will be considered falsification of your application** and result in your being terminated.

If you answer yes to any of the questions below, you must provide a written explanation in the space provided. If the question is regarding your certificate, you must explain and give the name of the State where your teaching certificate was revoked, suspended, sanctioned, denied, or where action is currently pending against you. If the question is regarding a criminal offense, you must explain and disclose where you were arrested, the date of the arrest, the nature of the charge, the level of the charge (felony, misdemeanor, etc.), and the final disposition. Your application will not be processed until this information is provided.

1. Have you ever been dismissed, asked to resign, or entered into an agreement to resign any position?
 Yes No
2. Have you ever been arrested for an offense other than a minor traffic violation (DUI and DWI are not minor and must be reported).
 Yes No
3. Have you ever been convicted of, found guilty of, entered a no lo contender or no contest plea to, or had adjudication withheld for an offense other than a minor traffic violation? (DUI and DWI convictions are not minor and must be reported).
 Yes No
4. Have you ever had a criminal record sealed or expunged?
 Yes No
5. Are there criminal charges currently pending against you?
 Yes No
6. Have you ever been imprisoned, jailed, or placed on probation in a criminal proceeding?
 Yes No
7. Have you ever failed to appear in court or forfeited bond in a criminal proceeding?
 Yes No
8. Have you ever been denied a teaching certificate anywhere or had a teaching certificate revoked or suspended, or had sanctions placed on your teaching certificate?
 Yes No
9. Is disciplinary action currently pending anywhere against your certificate?
 Yes No
10. Have you ever been confirmed as a child abuser by any agency?
 Yes No

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Teach First Coast—the Educator Preparation Institute at Florida Community College of Jacksonville

FCCJ's Teach First Coast program is a response to the teacher shortage in Florida. This program prepares non-education majors with a bachelor's degree to complete their professional (not temporary) teaching certification in needed content areas. Program participants will complete a competency-based alternative certification program. They will also prepare to sit for the Subject Area Exam, Professional Educator Test, and the General Knowledge Test.

FCCJ Teach First Coast prepares teachers in Northeast Florida. The program is founded on the belief that effective teacher preparation combines student interaction with a rigorous curriculum and competency-based instruction. This kind of teacher preparation, we believe, provides potential teachers with pedagogical knowledge and critical thinking strategies to build an effective career in teaching. Through this program we encourage reflective learning – a skill that will enhance the teacher's effectiveness continuously throughout their career.

The program is a blended online and in-class program. This experience provides students with a technological step up as they enter the teaching profession and with scheduling flexibility to help manage school and work.

The courses align with the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPs) and the Duval County Teacher Induction Program (TIP) requirements. We have worked in close consort with Duval County in order to align many of our assignments with the TIP. Our students complete the Teach First Coast program with competitive marketable skills for prospective employment.

Teach First Coast classwork is arranged into modular courses. Each module includes a variety of competencies and topics:

Module 1—The Instructional Process

Courses include - Technology, The Teaching and Learning Process, Instructional Strategies, and Classroom Management. (160 hours) This module prepares students to:

- Set up a classroom
- Establish classroom policies and procedures
- Create objective-based lesson plans
- Utilize various styles of presentations
- Employ varied teaching strategies
- Develop and administer various forms of assessment
- Understand school safety and school law
- Create standards-based lesson plans utilizing the Sunshine State Standards
- Establish, develop and maintain cooperative relationships with parents
- Research and utilize professional literature to seek best practices and to hone the craft of effective instruction

BY THE END OF MODULE ONE, ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE TAKEN AND PASSED THE SUBJECT AREA EXAM IN THEIR CERTIFICATION AREA.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT TAKE or PASS THE EXAM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MOVE FORWARD TO THE NEXT MODULE.

Module 2— Foundations of Research-Based Practices in Reading

The topics highlighted in this course are: language structure and function, cognition of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This instruction is grounded in scientifically-based research. When students complete this course they are eligible for Competency 2 of their Reading Endorsement. (45 hours)

Module 3—The Teaching Profession & Field Experience

The topics that are highlighted in this course are: important issues in American public education, including the history of the American educational system, school governance and funding, school law, school culture, and current social issues impacting students and teachers.

This module includes 15 hours of field experience where the future teacher observes and completes inquiry and reflection assignments in a public, charter, or private school. Fingerprinting is required for this course. (45 hours)

Module 4—Diversity in the Classroom & Field Experience

The topics that are highlighted in this course are: diversity as culture, ethnicity, race, language, social class, exceptionality, gender, age, and religion and their implications for educational policy, curriculum and methodology. Participants will complete a series of experiences designed to give prospective teachers a perspective on the varied backgrounds of students. Cohorts will meet together to discuss these experiences and to relate them to their observations of students as well as student behaviors and interactions in the schools.

This module requires a minimum of 12 hours of field experience in a service agency. An additional 3 hours of multicultural activities, such as watching a movie on a diversity topic, or attending a community-based multicultural event, are required. (45 hours)