

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATOR'S LATERAL ENTRY INFORMATION

The North Carolina General Statutes for lateral entry allows qualifying skilled individuals (with at least a bachelor's degree) outside of the public education system to enter the teaching profession. While completing an approved education program, a lateral entry license entitles the holder to be employed by and serve as a teacher in the North Carolina Schools. An initial lateral entry license is issued for up to two school years. It can be extended one additional year, but only if the holder earns a minimum of 6 semester hours of appropriate coursework per year. Please note that renewal credits (in-service workshops) are NOT accepted as appropriate coursework unless the university or Alternative Licensing Center approves them. The federal guidelines for the "No Child Left Behind Act," has been defined that to be considered "highly qualified" you must **obtain an appropriate license for the core academic subjects taught and demonstrate subject knowledge and teaching skills by passing the Praxis II exam required for the licensing area. The testing requirement must be met prior to employment if teaching in a core subject.** The core subject area's are: English, Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, Civics and Government, Economics, Arts, History, Geography and Vocational Education if you are teaching Principles of Technology. **There are no extensions if these requirements are not met.**

QUALIFICATIONS

TO QUALIFY FOR A LATERAL ENTRY LICENSE, YOU MUST:

- 1) Be selected for employment by a North Carolina school system; and
- 2) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution in the subject area you are employed to teach or hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, or satisfied Praxis II testing requirements for the license area or have 24 semester hours of content specific coursework in the area you are seeking employment.
- 3) Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

NOTE: If your cumulative GPA is not at least 2.5 or your degree is not applicable to the area you are employed to teach, then you may qualify by the following:

- Have passed the Praxis I tests; and
- Have a GPA of 3.0 in the major field of study or
- Have a GPA of a 3.0 on all work completed in the senior year; or
- Have a GPA of a 3.0 on a minimum of 15 semester hours of course work (related to the area of licensure) completed during the **preceding five years.**

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A LATERAL ENTRY LICENSE?

- Individuals who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements.
- Individuals who have been hired to teach in an area **other than the one in which they hold a degree.**
- Individuals who have graduated from an institution that is not regionally accredited.
- Individuals who do not have a bachelor's degree.
- Individuals who have completed all education program requirements except the Praxis Series tests.
- Graduates of approved education programs who are not recommended for licensure by their college or university.

(NOTE: A person who has satisfied all major degree requirements but has a minor deficiency or technical requirement may be eligible for a lateral entry license if they are employed by a school system. Such a deficiency cannot exceed six semester hours and must be corrected during the first year of licensure.)

REQUIREMENTS

Lateral entry license holders are subject to all regulations that apply to other beginning teachers in North Carolina. This includes completing three years successfully in the Initial Licensure Program.

During the first school year or partial school year of employment, you must:

- Associate with a college or university that has an approved education program in the area of your lateral entry license.
- Have the School of Education at that university evaluate your transcript(s) and set up a **course of study** for you (also called a plan of study).

NOTE: A course of study is a list of the exact classes that you will need to take in order to clear the lateral entry status from your North Carolina teaching license. **OR**

- Send application for an Evaluation by the Regional Alternative Licensing Center (Must be employed with school system to clear licensure requirements). Visit website www.ralc.ccs.k12.nc.us for more information about the evaluation process and download appropriate forms for evaluation. **NOTE:** evaluations can be completed prior to employment by using the Prospective Teacher

Lateral Entry License Information

REQUIREMENTS con't.

- Application, Statement of Applicant, transcript evaluation procedures for Non-teaching/Non-Licensed Applicant, and all transcripts after high school
- Complete at least 6 semester hours of coursework listed on your course of study by June 30.

Failure to meet the 6 semester hours requirement during your first year voids your educator's license and you will not be eligible for consideration for employment for the next school year.

During your second year of holding a lateral entry license, you must:

- Complete at least 6 semester hours of coursework listed on your course of study by June 30.
- Completion of a staff development program that includes a two-week training course prior to beginning work

Your North Carolina lateral entry license will not be extended and you cannot be considered for employment for the next school year if you fail to meet the 6 semester hour coursework and the testing requirements during your second year.

During your third year of holding a lateral entry license, you must:

- Complete the remainder of the coursework listed on your course of study by June 30.
 - Successfully complete the Praxis II subject assessment test(s) required for your licensure area by June 30.
- NOTE:** Do not wait until the June testing date to take the required tests. It takes approximately 6 weeks for you to receive your test scores from ETS. **Applies only to those employee's that did not use the exams to qualify for the license.**

Your North Carolina lateral entry license will not be cleared and you cannot be considered for employment for the next school year if you fail to complete the coursework requirement by the end of the third year.

You have **a maximum of 3 years** to complete all approved education program requirements for licensure.

You must meet the testing and progressive credit requirements within the three-year limit whether or not you continue to be employed in a North Carolina school system.

EXAMPLE:

- 1) If your course of study lists 18 semester hours to meet the approved education program requirements, you only have **3** years to complete all requirements, including test scores. Must be "highly qualified" by 6/30/06. See the table below:

Year of License	Requirements
1 st year	6 semester hours
2 nd year	6 semester hours
3 rd year	6 semester hours plus test(s)

LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS' LATERAL ENTRY PRACTICES

Lee County Schools may employ an individual through the lateral entry license process if there are no qualified licensed applicants for the position.

Lee County Schools requires the following licensure items be filed in the Human Resources Department:

- a copy of the plan of study;
- an official transcript showing the required six semester hours of credit by June 30 each year;
- a copy of Specialty Area Exam-Praxis scores prior to employment (if required). Test dates available are 4/28/07, 6/9/07, 8/4/07

If you fail to submit these items to Human Resources by the requested dates, you will not be considered eligible for employment for the 2008-2009 school year or subsequent years.

- Lee County Schools also requires that all individuals hired through the Lateral Entry process sign an agreement stating that they understand the regulations and requirements of lateral entry licensing. Must successfully completion a three-year initial licensure program in the lateral entry license area.