The Alternate Route to Teacher Certification
New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey (NPTNJ)
What is NPTNJ?

● A consortium of NJ Community Colleges and New Jersey City University
● Includes Stage I and Stage II
● The option of graduate credit or certification only
● Available statewide at local community colleges
What is the Alternate Route?

- A program through which individuals who have the necessary credentials and have qualified for a Certificate of Eligibility (CE) have the opportunity to become licensed teachers.

- 200 hours of professional development course work currently required during first year of teaching. (Elementary Ed. and Middle School teachers must take an additional 90 hours in Teaching Math and Literacy)
What is a Certificate of Eligibility?

• Provides the opportunity to seek employment

• Issued by the NJ Department of Education

✓ Bachelor’s or Master’s Degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on last degree conferred

✓ Required number of college credits in the appropriate discipline

✓ Passing grade on appropriate Praxis II test(s)

✓ Documentation showing completion of 24-Hour Introduction to Teaching course
What Steps Do I Need to Take to Participate?

• Step 1 – Order your transcripts
• Step 2 – Decide what license(s) you are qualified to pursue: www.nj.gov/education, select shortcut menu “Overview of New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Programs” and click on “Licensure and Credentials”
• Step 3 or 4 – Take Introduction to the Teaching Profession 24-Hour Program
• Step 3 or 4 – Take Praxis II exam: www.ets.org
• Step 5 – Apply for your CE
• Step 6 – Improve your odds of finding employment
# STEP 2: For which CE should I apply?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area Candidates (K-12)</th>
<th>Elementary School Candidates (K-5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(English, Math, Social Studies, Science)</td>
<td>60 credits in liberal arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 credits (45 credits in certain subjects) in a content area in a coherent sequence</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary with Specialization (6-8)</th>
<th>Special Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Must have elementary CE</td>
<td>• Must have another CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 15 credits in either Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, or a single World Language</td>
<td>• Enroll in a State-approved Special Education Program and complete 27 credits within four years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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6
Step 3: What is the Introduction to Teaching 24-Hour Program?

• **Required for most CE applicants*** (for exemptions, please see [http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/advisories/applicant.htm](http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/advisories/applicant.htm))

• **Must enroll and have documentation showing completion of 24-Hour Program before applying for a Certificate of Eligibility (CE).**

• **Tuition $200.00**

• **For future offerings of the Introduction to Teaching, check our website [www.ocean.edu/alternate.htm](http://www.ocean.edu/alternate.htm) and select Introduction to Teaching – 24-Hour Program.**

***According to NJDOE regulations as of October 1, 2010***
STEP 4: What is the Praxis?

- Test administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Helps NJDOE determine applicants’ content area knowledge as part of their teacher certification process
- Check www.ets.org/praxis for information about the test(s) you must take for your CE and as well as registration information
- Make sure you give social security number when you register
Praxis Score Reports

Test takers who register online must access their test scores via their Praxis account. The scores are posted online approximately 30 days after your test date, and they are available free for 30 days. After 30 days, the Educational Testing Service charges $40 for you to obtain your scores.
STEP 5: How do I get a Certificate of Eligibility?

- Register online through the TEACHER CERTIFICATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (TCIS): [www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education), select shortcut menu “Overview of NJ Dept. of Education (NJDOE) Programs” and click on “Licensure and Credentials”

- Provide documentation of Introduction to Teaching Profession 24-Hour Program

- Provide a copy of your passing Praxis scores

- Provide official transcript(s) from all colleges attended

- Pay by credit card, or certified check or money order payable to Commissioner of Education

- Make copies of everything

- If necessary, go for a Physiology and Hygiene test at the Ocean County Superintendent’s Office after you are assigned a tracking number by DOE
How to apply for your CE

Go to this web address:

www.nj.gov/education/educators/license

Click here to apply for your CE online.
Special Education (SE)

- NPTNJ students can qualify for the Teacher of Students with Disabilities Certificate of Eligibility providing they:
  - Have another Certificate of Eligibility
  - Have proof of enrollment in a State-approved Special Education Program in addition to the Alternate Route, take SE courses concurrently
  - Complete the 27 required credits in a State-approved Special Education Program within four years
How Do I Qualify for NPTNJ?

• 2.75 GPA in a Bachelor’s or Master’s Degree accredited program
  – Once your diploma has been awarded, you cannot raise your GPA by taking additional courses

• You must have obtained a NJ CE that will lead to an Instructional License (for Career and Technical Licenses, please see http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/cte/ for Early Childhood (P-3) Licenses, please see http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/license/advisories/applicant.htm)
Structure of NPTNJ Program

There are two stages to the NPTNJ Program:

- **Stage I**—April/July—Class that meets once or twice a week for 45 hours. In addition, you must complete a **15 hour observation during the school day** at a local school assigned by us — no exceptions.

- **Stage II**—Meets once a week from Sept-June

  *To continue in Stage II you must have a job as the full-time teacher in charge.*

  *Elementary and middle school teachers will be required to take an additional 45 hours in the Teaching of Reading and 45 hours in the Teaching of Mathematics.*
Structure of Stage I

- Learn and apply instructional, motivational and assessment strategies
- Develop practices that facilitate effective classroom management
- Become aware and sensitive to issues that impact on school environment
- Cultivate an awareness of the core curriculum content standards
- Develop effective instructional delivery by participating in classroom observations
Structure of Stage II

- Provides a viable support system and a reflective environment in which to share classroom experiences
- Focus in greater depth on many of the topics introduced in Stage I
- Observations of participant’s classroom performance in a classroom setting by their NPTNJ instructor
- Shared cohort of first year alternate route teachers
- Elementary and Middle School teachers must take 45 hours in the Teaching of Reading and 45 hours in the Teaching of Mathematics while enrolled in Stage II
Important Considerations

• No difference in course work between certification only and graduate credit options

• Payment must accompany your application to the program

• Financial aid is available for Stage II thru NJCU if you have applied and been admitted to the NJCU Graduate Program and you are taking Stage II for graduate credit. If applying for financial aid, it should be done during Stage I, since money is only distributed in the Fall.

• For additional information about financial aid, contact Mr. Roberto at NJCU—201-200-3171.
NPTNJ COURSE/PROGRAM PLAN

15 GRADUATE CREDITS

For a listing of courses included in the 15 graduate credits, please see the NPTNJ Program please visit www.nptnj.org
Master’s Degrees at NJCU

- Depending on the program 12-15 credits from NPTNJ will transfer into the Master’s Program
- Some programs are offered online, some are offered regionally, and some are offered at NJCU (New! 24 credits of the Special Education MAT are offered online)
- For requirements and more information, please go onto www.nptnj.org and click on Master’s Programs
Advantages of Obtaining Graduate Credit While Obtaining Your Certification

- Why do the work without getting the credit?
- Tuition Reimbursement by some districts
- Increase in Salary
Step 6: HOW DO I FIND A JOB?

- Ocean County Superintendent’s Office Job Vacancy List
- [www.njhire.com](http://www.njhire.com)
- [www.njschooljobs.com](http://www.njschooljobs.com)
- Classified ads, especially the [Newark Star Ledger](http://www.starledger.com) or [Asbury Park Press](http://www.asburyparkpress.com)
- Public and private schools
- Special needs districts or school districts where teacher turnover is high
What You Can Do to Improve Your Chance of Finding Employment

• Write your resume to show how your skills and experience transfer to teaching
• Obtain multiple CEs
• Be willing to apply to many schools, public and private
• Be willing to commute to a job
• Substitute teach and/or volunteer coach to get known in a school district
• Be diligent in checking classified ads, especially Sunday’s Newark Star Ledger and Asbury Park Press
• Check the websites listed in the Overview
How does NJ Licensure Work?

- **Certificate of Eligibility** – to gain employment

- **Provisional License** – Certificate issued by the NJDOE during your first year of alternate route teaching. The employing school district submits your Provisional License application

- **Standard License** – successful completion of one year of teaching and the alternate route curriculum (NPTNJ Stages I & II)
NOW WHAT?

• If you wish to register for the NPTNJ Program:
  • fill out the application form
  • submit it with a copy of your CE,
  • and three official transcripts.
• Make payment arrangements
Questions???

• Call Ms. Eileen Schilling’s office at 732-255-0477 or email Dee Jones at djones@ocean.edu

• Contact Sachie Tsumura-Tmart at NJCU at 201-200-3168 or stsumura@njcu.edu

• Check out our website—www.ocean.edu/alternate.htm

• Check the Overview for more resources on finding a job, licensing, credentialing, etc.

The policies stated herein reflect NPTNJ, OCC and NJDOE policies that are in effect as of October 1, 2012.