Non-Degree Seeking (NDS)
Alternative Teaching Pathway: 087C
2026-2027

The Non-Degree Seeking: Alternative Teaching Pathway (www.ecok.edu/gradstudies) is delivered in a blended format. The hours for this pathway vary from student to student, based on their letter from the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The estimated residential tuition and fees cost will vary depending on the number of courses required (www.ecok.edu/bursar).

- ❖ **This is a Non-Degree Seeking Pathway which DOES NOT qualify for Financial Aid**

East Central University will admit without further qualifications, and provide an opportunity to complete Standard Certification requirements, any Alternative Certification candidate approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Such candidates will be permitted to take any course(s) the candidate deems necessary or desired to meet standard certification requirements detailed by the OSDE. The Dean of the College of Education and Psychology will meet with all Alternative Certification candidates to discuss courses available and to assist as necessary in the development of an Individualized Certification Plan. For Alternative Placement candidates seeking coursework in the Education Department, course pre-requisites must be met but other blocks will be removed.

In order to complete this pathway option, a student must:

1. Apply to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) for admission to the Alternative Placement Program (all applications are online).
2. After you receive your initial letter from the OSDE, schedule a meeting with ECU's Certification Officer (Dean, College of Education and Psychology).
3. Complete the form "Individualized Certification Plan for Alternative Certification Candidates" AFTER the OSDE has reviewed your application and transcript, and has sent your status letter.
4. Classroom management, teaching skills and reading class are now required for alternative certification.
5. The candidate will have three years to complete OSDE requirements to move the alternative certificate to a standard teaching certificate.
6. *Alternative Certification is not available for Early Childhood or Elementary.*

- ✓ **This certificate SHALL NOT exceed three (3) years and SHALL NOT be renewable.**
- ➢ ***This Pathway does not guarantee certification. Please refer to the certification laws of your state.***

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I. Enrollment, Overload, and Full-Time Equivalents

Fall/Spring

- Academic full-time is nine (9) hours per 16-week semester
- Full financial aid requires nine (9) hours per 16-week semester
- Graduate Dean approval is required for thirteen (13) hours per 16-week semester

Summer

- Academic full-time is six (6) hours per 8-week semester
- Full financial aid requires nine (9) hours per 8-week summer semester
- Graduate Dean approval is required for eleven (11) hours per 8-week semester

II. Financial Aid Regulations for Graduate Students

Students, please be advised that the courses you choose to enroll in must be a required course or an elective course in your degree program. Graduate students seeking financial aid must be enrolled in at least nine (9) credit hours to receive full financial aid. Graduate students enrolled in fewer than nine (9) hours will have their financial aid prorated appropriately.

- Certificates and Non-Degree Pathways do not qualify for financial aid.
- For questions contact the Office of Financial Aid: 580-559-5243 or financialaid@ecok.edu.

III. Graduation and Commencement

Students should apply for graduation just after they have enrolled for their last semester. This triggers a Degree Audit, which will inform the student of any course changes, course additions, or course substitutions required for graduation.

Commencement/Graduation is held twice a year (December and May):

- Completing Degree in Fall: Will Participate in December Ceremony
- Completing Degree in Spring: Will Participate in May Ceremony
- Completing Degree in Summer: Option to Participate in May or December Ceremony