

I. Overview

Welcome to the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program. Focusing on critical teacher shortage areas, ARC prepares talented adult learners to teach in Connecticut schools.

An innovative and challenging program, ARC was created as part of the Education Enhancement Act of 1986. It has been offered since 1988 and is administered by the Connecticut Office of Higher Education. ARC faculty members have extensive experience working in the field as public school teachers, administrators, and professors. ARC is the state's seventh largest preparer of teachers overall and one of the highest preparers of shortage area candidates in Mathematics, Science, and World Languages.

ARC has prepared over 5,000 teachers since the program's inception. Most current ARC offerings seek to prepare graduates for jobs in critical teacher shortage areas as determined each year by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). ARC generally offers training* in Secondary Grade 7-12 Business Education, English, Mathematics, the Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, General Science, and Physics), K-12 World Languages, Pre K-12 Family and Consumer Sciences, Music and Technology Education.

ARC candidates bring a wide variety of academic, work, and life experience to classrooms across the state and come from professions such as architecture, medicine, engineering, law, the sciences and business. Many ARC candidates have worked previously as substitute teachers and private school and college tutors. Numerous state and local organizations have recognized ARC graduates for their contributions to the teaching profession. Connecticut's 2007 Teacher of the Year is an ARC graduate, and since 2007, more than 50 ARC graduates have been named District or Building Teacher of the Year, selected for the Presidential Award in Mathematics and Science, received fellowships, or other honors. Still others have become superintendents, district leaders, and administrators.

*ARC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule training to a later program cycle in any subject area depending on hiring patterns, the number of qualified applicants, and availability of student practicum placements. If a subject area cannot be offered, application fees will be refunded to applicants for that subject area.