

Educator Preparation Institute (EPI)



General Information

(Revised 8-15-09)

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What is the Educator Preparation Institute (EPI)?

EPI is an ***alternative route to teacher certification***.

EPI is an ***accelerated program*** that provides adults who already hold non-education degrees the coursework needed to master the Professional Education components of Florida teacher Professional Certification. Students who successfully complete all EPI courses in sequence can finish the program in approximately 9 months!

EPI is a ***flexible and nonsequential program*** designed to accommodate the needs of working or parenting adults. Most classes are taught on Saturdays, and field experiences are available in several local school districts.

Educator Preparation Institutes were authorized in 2004 by Senate Bill 2986 (S.1004.85, F.S.) as an alternative route to teacher certification to help alleviate Florida's critical shortage of highly qualified teachers. It has been estimated that Florida schools will need to employ approximately 200,000 additional teachers over the next 10 years. Traditional teacher preparation programs have been unable to meet this continually growing demand. DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands County schools have a pressing need for more teachers- and all three school districts supported the development of the SFCC Educator Preparation Institute. The SFCC Educator Preparation Institute received full approval from the Florida Department of Education.

Who is Eligible for the EPI?

Any adult who holds a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally or nationally-accredited institution approved by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) may be eligible for the program.

Prospective participants do *not* need to be presently employed as teachers to be accepted into the EPI program. Graduates of the Educator Preparation Institute, once certified by the Florida Department of Education, may teach anywhere in the state of Florida.

Potential participants for EPI could include:

- Parents who deferred entry in the workplace while raising a family
- Recent college graduates interested in a career in teaching
- Career changers or individuals seeking a second career
- Individuals presently employed as substitute teachers
- U.S. Military Veterans
- Displaced workers
- Retirees

...and anyone who has a desire to help the Heartland's children be successful learners!

Requirements for admission into the SFCC EPI Program (effective for applicants beginning, or returning to, EPI studies after July 1, 2007) include the following:

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree from a regionally or nationally-accredited institution acceptable to the Florida Department of Education.
- Acceptance by the college as an SFCC student and completion of SFCC orientations.
- Verification of bachelor's degree, accomplished by sending official transcripts from the degree-granting institution directly to the SFCC Registrar's Office.
- Acceptance by the EPI program, which is based upon the applicant having met each of the following criteria*:
 1. Submission of a formal EPI Application for Admission, resume, and three supporting letters of reference.
 2. Presentation of a valid Official Statement of Status of Eligibility letter from FLDOE indicating that the applicant is currently eligible to pursue certification in the state of Florida.
 3. Documentation of existing English language and math competency.
 4. Documentation of existing technology competency.
 5. Documentation of suitability of character and dispositions for a career in the teaching profession.
 6. Approval by the EPI Student Selection panel following formal interview.

Note: Applicants who meet all of these criteria are granted conditional acceptance into the EPI Program and may begin their EPI coursework at any time, with the exception of the field experience. Unconditional/formal acceptance as an EPI student is subsequently achieved as the student completes level 2 background clearance, fingerprinting, and drug testing through a local school district. EPI students may not begin fieldwork experiences until written documentation that they have passed these screening processes has been received by the EPI Coordinator.

How is the EPI Program Structured?

The EPI program consists of 7 core courses and 2 field experiences (totaling 21 institutional credit hours of coursework) designed to provide students the opportunity to develop the competencies required to successfully pass the Professional Education examination required by FLDOE for teacher certification.

At present all EPI courses are conducted only at SFCC's Highlands campus in Avon Park. Each EPI course typically meets for 4 or 5 Saturdays from 8am – 4pm; some EPI courses physically meet fewer times, however additional hours are completed via online assignments. Students must be very committed to the program and must attend and participate in every class session. All missed class time must be made up the next time the course is offered or through individualized assignments determined by the instructor. Fieldwork experiences are scheduled in public and private school classrooms in Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto Counties.

EPI courses may be completed non-sequentially. EPI is an open-entry program; new EPI students may begin their coursework at any time during the academic year and may complete their courses in any order.

Institutional Credit, Transfer Credit, and Certificate of Completion

All EPI courses earn “institutional credit”. This credit is recognized by the Florida Department of Education **only** for the purpose of determining that all EPI Program requirements have been met to help prospective teachers earn eligibility for teacher certification in the state of Florida.

While EPI course credit may be transferable to other EPI Programs in Florida, **it cannot be transferred** to any associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree program.

EPI’s are approved by Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) as alternative routes to teacher certification and, as such, are considered to be self-contained programs. Teacher candidates who pursue alternative certification through EPI must complete **all** outlined EPI requirements **only through an EPI Program** to obtain this eligibility. Because the EPI program is competency-based and highly-specific it is **not** possible to substitute undergraduate education courses or credits for EPI requirements, and students **may not** blend elements from different alternative certification models together to try to meet the eligibility requirements outlined by FLDOE. EPI applicants who have substantial graduate level coursework in education may request evaluation of their records for consideration of course substitution credit on a case-by-case basis.

A certificate of completion from the SFCC EPI Program (CT 133 form) is issued only after **all of the following** FLDOE requirements are satisfied:

- The student holds a valid Official Statement of Status of Eligibility from FLDOE showing eligibility for certification in the student’s declared area of intended certification,
- All EPI courses and field work experiences have been completed with a grade of “C” or higher in each course and an overall GPA of at least 2.5.,
- Mastery of the twelve Florida Educator Accomplished Practices at the pre-professional level, as outlined in FS. 1004.85, is documented via a FACTS.ORG electronic portfolio and supportive materials verified by SFCC and approved by the Program Director, and
- A passing score on the Florida Professional Education examination and all other FTCE exams* required by FLDOE as outlined on the student’s Official Statement of Status of Eligibility letter from the Bureau of Educator Certification.

*The three FTCE (Florida Teacher Certification Examinations) that all teacher candidates typically must pass are the:

- Florida General Knowledge Examination
- Florida Professional Education Examination
- One or more Florida subject area examination(s)

Some EPI candidates may be required to take a subject area exam prior to program entry if their undergraduate degree content is not acceptable to the FLDOE or does not meet all FLDOE requirements for the subject area and grade level in which they are seeking certification. (Passing a subject area exam typically leads to automatic approval for an “eligible” Official Statement of Status of Eligibility from FLDOE in that subject area.) All EPI students are required to pass the subject area examination to meet the certification requirements for their desired subject area and grade level prior to earning a certificate of completion from the EPI Program.

For more information about the Florida teacher certification exams contact:

<http://www.fl.nesinc.com> or call 413-256-2893

To achieve the Professional Certificate for teacher certification in the state of Florida, the EPI graduate must also meet all other requirements outlined on their personal Official Statement of Status of Eligibility.

What Teaching and Learning Strategies are Used in EPI Courses?

EPI classes are taught using a variety of strategies including traditional lecture, interactive discussion, web-enhanced coursework, special topic workshops, peer-led activities, and self-directed study. A central element of the curriculum is providing students *practical* information and hands-on activities, blended with essential theory, to help them acquire the competencies skilled teachers need. EPI instructors often teach in a style designed to illustrate varied teaching techniques and to allow EPI students to experience varied instructional methods.

All EPI courses are supported by free student access to the SFCC D2L (Desire 2 Learn) online learning community and course management system which provides access to electronic versions of course syllabi, assignments, student and faculty email, SFCC news, resource materials, and EPI-focused bulletin board discussion groups. D2L is Internet based, and can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection.

What Content is Covered in EPI Classes?

All EPI classes are competency based and designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful classroom teachers.

Each course addresses one or more of these twelve Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAP's) at the pre-professional level:

FEAP 1: Assessment (traditional and alternate strategies to assist the continuous development of learners).

FEAP 2: Communication (developing effective communication strategies with students and all other stakeholders).

FEAP 3: Continuous improvement (engaging in continuous professional quality improvement for self and school).

FEAP 4: Critical thinking (using appropriate techniques and strategies which promote and enhance critical, creative, and evaluative thinking capabilities of students).

FEAP 5: Diversity (teaching and learning strategies that reflect each student's culture, learning styles, special needs, and socio-economic background).

FEAP 6: Ethics (adherence to the Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida).

FEAP 7: Human development and learning (understanding learning and human development to provide a positive learning environment that supports the intellectual, personal, and social development of students).

FEAP 8: Knowledge of subject matter (demonstrating knowledge and understanding of subject matter).

FEAP 9: Learning environments (creating and maintaining positive learning environments in which students are actively engaged in learning, social interaction, cooperative learning, and self-motivation).

FEAP 10: Planning (planning, implementing, and evaluating the effectiveness of instruction in a variety of learning environments).

FEAP 11: Role of the teacher (working with various education professionals, parents, and other stakeholders in the continuous improvement of the educational experiences of students).

FEAP 12: Technology (applying appropriate technology in the teaching and learning processes).

(Source: Florida State Board of Education - Administrative Rules- 6A-5.065)

In EPI courses, Professional Education Competencies Assessments are also included that address the Foundations of Education and instruction for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). One or more SFCC Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's) are also incorporated into, and assessed within, each EPI course.

In every EPI course participants produce a series of required artifacts for their professional electronic competency portfolio on FACTS.ORG. At the time of program completion the portfolio is one of the tools used to document acquisition and mastery all of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices as required by FLDOE.

The core EPI courses are:

EPI 0001 Classroom Management 3 institutional credit hours.
EPI 0001 is an introduction to the classroom environment which prepares the participant to set up a classroom, establish classroom policies and procedures, maintain cooperative relations with parents, and research professional literature to seek best practices and to hone the craft of effective instruction. A major focus of this module is the ethical and legal obligations of the teaching profession. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. Portfolio products produced in this course include a student discipline plan, classroom procedures, and a classroom newsletter.

EPI 0002 Instructional Strategies 3 institutional credit hours.
EPI 0002 prepares the participant to achieve proficiency in the application of a variety of instructional strategies based on knowledge of diverse learning styles. Topics covered in the course include lesson planning, Sunshine State Standards, Bloom's Taxonomy, critical thinking, learning styles, multiple intelligences, instructional presentation styles, cooperative learning, group learning, contextual learning, and project-based learning. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. Portfolio products include lesson plans modified to reflect several different approaches to instruction, and a reflection on a teaching demonstration of a portion of one lesson plan.

EPI 0003 Technology**3 institutional credit hours.**

This hybrid course will enable students to acquire and integrate into their lesson planning and delivery the technology skills required for effective classroom instruction and records management including learning centers, computer-based record keeping, technology enhanced instructional strategies, internet resources, web quests, webpage development, integration of technology and the learning process, and copyright and fair use guidelines. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. Portfolio products created in this course include a lesson plan that utilizes technology as a teaching tool, PowerPoint and SMART-Board teaching presentations, and a computer-centered lesson plan with associated student materials (web bibliography, Web-Quest, etc.).

EPI 0004 Teaching and Learning Process**3 institutional credit hours.**

This course provides a fundamental understanding of the varied learning theories applied in the instructional process. Standardized testing and use of testing results are stressed. Topics include theories of learning and human development, intelligence, accommodations for student exceptionalities (including second language learners), student assessment, FCAT, and the Sunshine State Standards (S.S.S.). Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. Portfolio products generated are sample pretests and posttests, a grading rubric, lesson plans, a formal paper overviewing one theory of learning, a student score report analysis and a student problem-solving activity designed to encourage critical thinking.

EPI 0010 Research-Based Practices in Reading**3 institutional credit hours.**

This is an intense hybrid course which will document the student's achievement of one of the components of the reading competency required for Florida teachers (FOR-PD). Topics include evidence about learning to read, introduction to the foundations of language, strategies for teaching reading, the reading and writing connection, and reading in the content areas. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. This course is a hybrid course consisting of 14 online modules (completed at a pace of one per week) facilitated by an SFCC EPI faculty member. FOR-PD meets Competency 2 of the Florida Reading Endorsement.

EPI 0020 Professional Foundations**2 institutional credit hours.**

This course is an introduction to the fundamental aspects of becoming a member of the teaching profession. Participants gain an understanding of foundations of the American education system, organization and administration of public schools, laws governing teachers, the code of ethics, and the purpose of schools. Topics covered include school governance and finance, school law, teacher ethics, and professional development. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. The primary student portfolio products developed are a first draft of the student's personal philosophy of teaching and learning, a formal review of literature addressing an education topic, creation of an EPI FACTS.ORG portfolio, and a passing score on an examination addressing teacher ethics, the FEAPS, and child abuse reporting responsibilities.

EPI 0030 Diversity**2 institutional credit hours.**

This course provides an understanding of the variety of learner backgrounds and cultures that may be found in a typical classroom. Topics covered in the course include the impact of socioeconomic class, religion, language, second language acquisition, gender, culture and ethnicity, physical differences, and prejudice on the teaching and learning processes. Strategies for effective multicultural teaching are also discussed. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, and official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student. A lesson plan for teaching with ESE modifications, or utilizing a multicultural theme or story, will be produced for the student portfolio as well as a more polished version of the personal philosophy of teaching and learning and a case study analysis.

EPI 0940 Professional Foundations Field Experience**1 institutional credit hours, 15 contact hrs.**

This course is an introduction to the classroom environment conducted in real-life education settings through directed observation. The goals of the field experience are for the student to: 1) gain insight into the work of a teacher, 2) observe the dynamics of the instructional process, and 3) interact with teachers and learners in classrooms and other education settings. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student, and completion of background clearance screening. Every effort will be made to place each EPI candidate in a field experience that is compatible with his/her personal educational plan and future career and teaching goals. Fieldwork experiences will be documented in a reflective journal and through participation in face-to-face meetings on campus and online discussion boards, and reviewed and discussed in EPI 0020 and debriefing sessions conducted by the program coordinator. A participation log, a reflective practice Web-Quest, and a summative reflective analysis paper will be produced for the portfolio.

EPI 0945 Diversity Field Experience**1 institutional credit hour, 15 contact hrs.**

This course expands on the experiences of EPI 0940. The goals of the field experience are for the student to observe highly-qualified teachers at work and to teach under their supervision. Students receive feedback on their teaching performance from clinical educators or nationally board certified teachers. Prerequisites: Approval of the EPI Program Director, official acceptance as an SFCC and EPI student, prior completion of EPI 0940 with a grade of 2.5 or higher, and completion of level 2 background clearance screening. Fieldwork experiences will be documented in a reflective journal, through face-to-face meetings on campus and online discussion boards, and other debriefing sessions conducted by the program coordinator. A participation log, a professional development plan, and a summative reflective analysis paper will be produced for the portfolio. Each student will also be observed teaching one or more lessons of their own creation in their selected school setting, and will receive formative feedback on their teaching performance. A mandatory requirement of this field experience is successful completion of the formal Teaching Proficiency Demonstration. Prerequisites: Successful completion of EPI 0940.

Who Teaches the EPI Courses?

Every EPI class is taught by a faculty member who is currently working as a teacher or administrator in the K-12 environment in a local school, a teacher who has expertise in a highly specialized content area such as reading, or a recently retired educator who has a background in public or private school education. All EPI faculty hold a minimum of a master's degree in education or a closely related field, and prior teaching experience in K-12 settings and/or with adult learners.

What is the Cost of the EPI Program?

EPI students pay regular SFCC community college student tuition and fees. The current in-state (Florida resident) tuition rate for SFCC students is \$85.36 per institutional credit hour. The out of state (non-Florida resident) student tuition rate is \$322.02 per institutional credit hour. (Prospective students new to Florida should check with the SFCC Registrar's Office for more information on determination of Florida resident status.)

Estimated cost to complete the entire EPI program for a *resident* student is:

21 institutional credit hours @ \$85.36/credit hour:	\$1,793
One-time SFCC admission fee*:	\$20
One-time SFCC graduation fee:	\$25
One-time fingerprinting/drug screening fee:	\$100
EPI 0945 lab fee (for teaching demonstration):	\$150
Books and materials:	\$350*
Total:	\$2,438 \$2,088**

Additional fees for which the student will be responsible include:

- Statement of Status of Eligibility applications to FLDOE (currently \$75/subject area).
- Fees associated with required Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (fees vary).

****Note:** SFCC recently obtained a grant used, in part, to purchase textbooks for the program. Students receive books needed for class via a "lending library" arrangement and incur no out of pocket expense for the books needed for their classes as long as they are returned to the program at the end of the course in undamaged condition.

EPI students typically register, and pay for, their classes just prior to the start of each class. Tuition is typically *not* paid in one lump sum for the entire program. Arrangements can be made through the SFCC Cashier for payments to be made directly by an employer, when applicable.

Is Financial Aid Available to EPI Participants?

Yes!!!

- EPI students may wish to explore several types of financial aid including Federal Student Loans. (There are several student loan “forgiveness” programs available to graduates who are later hired as teachers in high need schools.)
- EPI students who meet specified criteria maybe eligible for Pell grants. (EPI has been granted a special exemption to allow individuals who already hold a degree to apply for Pell because of the ongoing teacher shortage.)
- Military veterans may be eligible for special “Troops to Teachers” scholarships and their spouses may want to explore the “Spouses to Teachers” program. More information about these programs can be obtained at www.proudtoserveagain.com or by calling the state Troops to Teachers office at (850) 245-5023.
- Scholarship funds may be available to students who qualify.
- SFCC also offers students the FACTS tuition installment payment plan (TIP).

To explore opportunities for a federal student loan a student must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application. To expedite this process, it is highly recommended that the FAFSA application be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. A free hard copy of the FAFSA application form can also be obtained at any SFCC campus location.

EPI students interested in financial aid are strongly encouraged to meet with an SFCC financial aid advisor as soon as possible. Contact the SFCC Financial Aid office at 863-784-7108 for an appointment and additional information. (Counselors are available at all SFCC campuses in the tri-county service area.)

EPI and Florida Teacher Certification

All EPI applicants must obtain, and provide to the EPI Coordinator, an **Official Statement of Status of Eligibility** (SOE letter) from the Bureau of Educator Certification at the Florida Department of Education prior to being considered for admission to the EPI Program. The Bureau of Educator Certification (Bureau) processes all teacher certification applications in Florida. (*Note: Not all bachelor’s degrees will meet the Bureau’s guidelines as automatically acceptable for admission to an EPI, so it is extremely important to obtain this official evaluation of a degree and its content as early as possible in the EPI program application process. Contact the EPI Program Director for assistance in selecting a certification subject area for this application.*)

- The Bureau strongly encourages candidates to apply online.
- The cost of the processing the Statement of Status of Eligibility presently is \$75.00 per subject for which an applicant’s academic background is evaluated for potential certification. Applicants are required to submit *official transcripts* to the Bureau from all colleges and universities at which they earned credit toward a bachelor’s or higher degree.
- The Bureau sends each applicant a letter (the “Official Statement” or “SOE”) which lists their evaluation results and is the official notice verifying that they either qualify for a

Florida certificate (temporary or professional) now, or outlines the requirements that must be completed in order for them to qualify for a certificate at a later date.

- The direct URL to the Bureau of Educator Certification's online application for the Statement of Status of Eligibility is: www.fldoe.org/edcert/apply.asp. (EPI applicants should request evaluation for an *Initial Temporary Certificate*.)

This is what you find at the Bureau's online application web site:

**Welcome to the *newly improved* Florida Educator Certification
On-line Application and Status Lookup site**

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You may now use this secure site to:

- Submit your On-line Application for Certification in Florida (see service options below)
- Update your mailing address in your Florida certification record
- Make payment for any unpaid fee balance using your major credit card
- Access current information about your Florida certification record

Completing Your Application On-line

1. Log in to this [secure](#) site or create your account using the options provided
2. Once successfully logged in, Click on Submit Application to apply on-line for any of the following services:
 - Evaluation of eligibility for an initial Florida Educator's Certificate
 - Evaluation for moving from your Florida Temporary to a Professional Educator's Certificate
 - Addition of a subject or endorsement to your valid Florida Educator's Certificate*
 - Reprint of your valid Florida Educator's Certificate*
 - Evaluation for a Florida Educator's Certificate in Athletic Coaching
 - Renewal of your Florida Professional Educator's Certificate*
 - Reinstatement of your expired Florida Professional Educator's Certificate

**Note: These select services may also be completed by your Florida public school district employer. Please contact your local Florida public school district certification office for their application procedures.*

3. Complete your application by entering your information as requested in each of the application sections
4. Verify and attest via Affidavit that the information you enter is true, accurate, and complete
5. Authorize payment of non-refundable application processing fees using your VISA or MasterCard credit card
 - You will be charged the [appropriate processing fee](#) according to the certificate action or service you request
 - You will be required to authorize payment for your on-line application using your  or 
6. Submit additional documentation as directed in your On-line Application Receipt

Additional documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- An official transcript bearing the registrar's seal and signature from each college or university within the United States from which you have earned college level credit. You must have attained a bachelor's or higher degree from an [accredited or approved](#) institution to be eligible for certification in Florida (except for the Athletic Coaching certificate).

Please request your institution to submit an official transcript electronically to the Bureau of Educator Certification, if possible. Secure electronic submission via FASTER or SPEEDE is the preferred method of receipt by the Florida Department of Education in order to protect the confidentiality of your educational records, maintain the integrity of your personal identity, and speed the process of your certification application.

Applicants with degrees from colleges or universities outside the United States should refer to the

Bureau of Educator Certification website at <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/foreign.asp> or contact our office for an explanation of appropriate documentation of foreign degrees and credits.

- A complete photocopy of your valid certificate/s from other state/s, the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE), and/or the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). You may refer to the [Certification Pathways](#) section of our website for more information regarding Florida's use of out-of-state certificates for certification purposes.

Your application package **cannot be evaluated** until it is complete and received in the Bureau of Educator Certification.

Submit all application documentation to the Bureau at the following **Office Mailing Address**:
Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Educator Certification
Room 201, Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Thank you for using the on-line application process to apply for certification in Florida.

You must use Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 and greater or Netscape 6 and greater to submit an application.

If you are not using these versions, please [request an application form by mail](#).

APPLY HERE

Source: Copyright Florida Department of Education ©2005

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Eligibility for a temporary teacher certification is based upon the Bureau's evaluation of a candidate's education background and college transcripts, which are compared to the state statutes for certification in each certification subject area or discipline. If an applicant's bachelors degree is in a discipline that is considerably different from that in which they plan to teach, they may also be required to pass the teacher certification subject area examination and/or complete specified upper level (300 and 400 or higher) courses in the discipline in which they apply for the Official Statement of Status of Eligibility letter in order to qualify for certification eligibility. A list of content requirements for various subject areas can be reviewed at: <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/subjlist.asp> (To save time and cost, applicants are encouraged to review those requirements carefully with the EPI Program Director *before* applying for their Official Statement. Review of the requirements can help a candidate select a field that best matches their bachelor's degree and previous coursework.)

Typically EPI candidates, most of whom have non-education bachelor's degrees, receive an Official Statement that lists several requirements that must be met to be eligible for teacher certification including:

- Completion of up to 20 semester hours of specified education courses*,
- Completion of an approved professional education competence demonstration system*,
- A passing score on the Florida Professional Education Test,
- Level 2 fingerprint/criminal background clearance*,
- A passing score on all components of the Florida General Knowledge Test, and

- A passing score on the Florida subject area examination for the discipline(s) in which the applicant wants to teach.

**EPI provides all of these components of preparation and assists students with preparation for the Florida Professional Education test.*

For information about Florida teacher certification
contact the Bureau by telephone at:

800-445-6739 (U.S. residents)
850-245-5049 (Outside U.S.)

Sources of Additional Information About Teaching in Florida

These comprehensive web sites provide a wealth of information for prospective EPI students about Florida's teacher certification process:

www.fldoe.org/ed.cert

and

www.teachinflorida.com

To learn more about the rewards of becoming a teacher check out:

www.nea.org

To explore potential employment opportunities in local school districts, and learn more about education in the Heartland, visit:

DeSoto County: www.desotoschools.com

Hardee County District Schools: www.hardee.k12.fl.us

School Board of Highlands County: www.highlands.k12.fl.us

**EPI application forms and other related documents are available to view
and download at the SFCC EPI website:**

www.southflorida.edu/educatorprep

I'm Interested! How Do I Begin the EPI Application Process?

First: Complete an EPI Application for Admission and return it promptly to the EPI Program Director.

Next: Make formal application to SFCC. Stop by any SFCC campus location in DeSoto, Hardee, or Highlands County to pick up and/or submit an application.

Please visit the SFCC website for more information on the application process:

<http://www.southflorida.edu>

A copy of the SFCC application (in PDF format) is available for download on the SFCC website (click on the link for Admissions).

Your SFCC application may also be submitted online at:

www.FACTS.ORG

Important!

When completing your SFCC application be sure to enter the following information:

- Section 16- Degree Objective: Check "EPI Institute"
- Section 17- Program name/Code: Enter "EPI" as the name, and "5001" as the code.

Then: Schedule an appointment with the EPI Director to review your application, to discuss program entry requirements in further detail, and to obtain more detailed information and program materials.

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