Glossary of Terms

Highly Qualified Teacher – defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
   • obtained full State certification as a teacher or passed the State teacher licensing examination, and holds a license to teach in such State; and
   • Has not had certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.

Full-Time Teacher – You must meet the state's definition of a full-time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51%) of your time teaching in one of the high-need subject areas.

High-Need Field – Foreign Language; Mathematics; Science; Special Education; Reading Specialist; Bilingual Education; English Language Acquisition or another field listed in the Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing.

Low-Income School – for purposes of the TEACH Grant Program, this is a public or private elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department’s Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools.

Teaching Obligation – To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant as a loan with interest, you must become a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area and teach for at least 4 years within 8 years of finishing your academic program.

75th Percentile – Check your test result for your ranking in the national norms of SAT, ACT, or any one of the battery of tests on a nationally normed test for graduate admission.

Important Websites

Details about the TEACH Grant Program
http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp

Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide List
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc

Department of Education’s Annual Directory of Designated Low-income Schools
www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp

Requirements for Highly Qualified Teacher Status

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Counseling
https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action

Direct Loan Servicing Center (DLSC)
www.dl.ed.gov

Direct Loan Page for Students
www.direct.ed.gov/student.html

Failure to complete the teaching obligation or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest. Once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.
Participating in TEACH at Prescott College

Step One: File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Check "yes" to question #32 on the FAFSA, that states you are planning to complete coursework necessary to become an elementary or secondary school teacher, either now or in the future.

If you have already filed and did not answer yes to question #32, you may make a correction to the FAFSA or contact the office of financial aid directly.

Step Two: You must meet the following academic criteria to initially qualify to receive TEACH at Prescott College:

New First Year Undergraduates
High school GPA of at least 3.25
Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one section of the SAT or ACT.

New Transfer Undergraduates
Transfer College GPA of 3.25 (evaluated at Prescott College based on credits accepted for transfer)
Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one section of the SAT or ACT.

Continuing Undergraduates
Transfer College GPA of 3.25 (evaluated at Prescott College based on credits accepted or transfer)
PC GPA of 3.25
Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one section of the SAT or ACT.

New Graduate Student
Undergraduate college GPA of 3.25
Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one section of a graduate school admissions test (GRE)
Be a current teacher or retiree from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field.

Continuing Graduate Student
Undergraduate College GPA of 3.25
Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one section of a graduate student admissions test (GRE)
Be a current teacher or retiree from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field.

Step Three: Qualifying programs at Prescott College include:
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Elementary Education
- Secondary Education
- Special Education

You must be degree seeking at Prescott College to receive TEACH. This means you must be either be pursuing your first bachelor’s degree or pursuing a master’s degree.

Students who enroll in a Teacher Certification program only do not qualify for TEACH at Prescott College. Undergraduates with a prior bachelors’ degree do not qualify for TEACH.

Step Four: Once you have received an award letter that includes TEACH,
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay online. (Complete each year you receive the grant.)
- Complete TEACH Grant entrance counseling online. (First year only)

Continuing to Receive the TEACH Grant
Students whose eligibility is based on GPA must maintain a 3.25 GPA to continue to be eligible for the TEACH Grant. To meet this requirement at Prescott College, students must take grades.

Prescott College is currently expanding the credit/no credit evaluation method to allow for an option to recognize coursework performed at a 3.25 or higher equivalent. Guidance on requesting this evaluation mark will be forthcoming in the next academic year.

Starting Your Teaching Obligation
Within 120 days of completing enrollment in the TEACH-eligible academic program, you must notify the Department of Education that you are fulfilling or will fulfill the terms and conditions of the service agreement. You must provide documentation to the Department at the end of each year of teaching.

If You Are Unable to Meet the Teaching Obligation
To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant with interest you must be a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area for at least four years at a school serving low-income students. You must complete the four years of teaching within eight years of finishing the program for which you received the grant. You incur a four-year teaching obligation for each educational program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, although you may work off multiple four-year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances.

If at any time you determine that you will not be able to meet this obligation, you should notify the Department of Education. Your grant will be converted to a loan and you can begin repayment. It is in your best interest to do so as interest is charged from the date the grant(s) was disbursed. TEACH Grant recipients are given a six-month grace period prior to entering repayment if a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You may select from

Income is NOT a consideration when determining eligibility. The TEACH Grant will not reduce any eligibility for need based aid. The TEACH Grant, combined with all other financial aid, cannot exceed a student’s cost of attendance. The Prescott College policy is to reduce loan amounts first, then TEACH, before reducing other award amounts.

Failure to complete the required teaching obligation results in conversion of the TEACH Grant to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed.

The Federal TEACH Grant Program provides grant funds to college students who are completing or plan to complete coursework that is needed to begin a career in teaching, and who agree to serve for at least four years as a full-time, highly qualified teacher in a high-need field, in a school serving low-income students. Eligible full-time students may receive $4,000 per year in TEACH Grant funds, up to a maximum of $16,000 for undergraduate (1st bachelor’s degree only), and $8,000 for graduate study.