



13. Teacher Qualification

Teachers education is divided into two categories. (1) Teachers colleges, which are designed to train teachers for kindergartens and primary schools. In the past, they used to be junior colleges admitting junior high graduates. For enhancing teacher quality, in 1986, these junior colleges became 4-year colleges admitting only senior high graduates. (2) Normal universities, training teachers for secondary schools, also admit senior secondary graduates to receive four

years of education. Teachers for universities and colleges mainly come from graduate institutes.

Recently, the expansion of education has been very fast, and the quality of teachers has been upgraded steadily. A diversified society and a shortage of teachers for special and less popular courses have caused the graduates of the above-mentioned teachers education institutions to be insufficient to meet the demand.

Consequently, the "Teachers Education Law"

A. Kindergarten to Senior Secondary School Teachers

According to the new Teacher Training Act, anyone who has met the following conditions must pass the licensing tests and internships to become qualified teachers.

(A) Teacher of Common Subjects:

- (a) graduating from a teachers college or a normal university;
- (b) graduating from department of education in regular universities;
- (c) graduating from regular universities and completing required credits in educational programs

B. University and College Teachers

Anyone who has met one of the following conditions and intends to become a qualified lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor shall submit an application together with his publications on specialized subjects to the educational authorities for evaluation. A successful candidate may become a university and college teacher.

(A) Lecturer:

- (a) earning a master's degree from a graduate school with good academic performance record; or
- (b) being a teaching assistant for at least four years with good performance record and specialized publications; or
- (c) being an assistant undertaking research at an educational institute or a professional agency for at least six years with remarkable contribution and with specialized publications.

(B) Assistant Professor:

- (a) earning a doctoral degree from a graduate school with good performance record and specialized publications.
- (b) earning a master's degree and undertaking research at an educational institute or a professional agency for at least four years with remarkable contribution and with specialized publications ; or
- (c) university/college graduates majoring in "Medicine" or "Chinese Herbal Medicine" or "Dentistry" have had clinical practice for over nine years of which at least 4 years as an

was amended in 1994 to increase the channels of teacher training. Specifically, all public and private colleges and universities having educational colleges, departments, and graduate schools, and/or having courses specializing in education may participate in the teacher education program; furthermore, teachers colleges are allowed to deliver secondary school teachers, and normal universities are now able to deliver primary school teachers.

The teacher education program for teachers of senior high schools and lower levels is basically financed by trainees themselves, but full public subsidies and partial assistance are available for

some students. Before they obtain the qualified status, all graduates are required to pass the teacher qualification test, go through one year of internship, and pass the second qualification test. With the status, they are eligible to be employed by a primary or secondary school after the approval of school evaluation committee.

There are two ways to obtain teacher qualification, qualification test for teachers at secondary schools or below, and qualification review for teachers at colleges and universities.

while he/she was at university;

(d) graduating from foreign universities and completing required credits of education.

(B) Teacher of Vocational Courses:

Graduating from a teachers college or a normal university, or other university or college with programs designed to train vocational schools teachers.

attending physician in medical center with good performance record and specialized publications; or

(d) being a lecturer for at least three years with good performance record and specialized publications.

(C) Associate Professor:

(a) earning a doctoral degree from a graduate school with good performance record and specialized publications.

(b) being an assistant professor for at least three years with good performance record and specialized publications.

(D) Professor:

(a) being an associate professor for at least three years with good performance record and specialized publications; or

(b) earning a doctoral degree and undertaking research at an educational institute or a professional agency for at least eight years with original works or inventions, and with important academic contribution or specialized publications.

Note: Qualification requirements for teachers at special or supplementary schools are the same as those for teachers at regular schools.