

13. Teacher Qualification

Teachers training education in Taiwan traditionally falls into two categories: The first type is normal college, preparing teachers for primary schools and kindergarten. The second type is normal university, preparing teachers for middle schools. Both types of institutes accept senior high school graduates for 4-year training courses. In addition to this, some other universities also offer teacher training

program to prepare teachers of primary and middle schools. Graduate courses (especially at the doctorate level) are the main training ground for teachers of colleges and universities.

In recent years, there have been rapid expansion across the various levels of education in Taiwan and caused the need of continuing improvement of teacher training. In order to meet the needs of a more diversified society, we

A. Kindergarten to Senior Secondary School Teachers

According to the new teacher training act, to become a qualified teacher, individual must meet the following conditions before being eligible to take the licensing tests and practice internships.

(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

In addition to submitting academic publications, basic requirements for lecture, assistant professor, associate professor and professor are given as following.

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

will have to train more qualified teachers for students in general and students who need special education. 'The Teacher Education Law', revised and released in 1994, allowed all public and private universities to take part in the training of teachers. In addition, some normal colleges have already begun the training of teachers for middle schools, and normal universities have begun the training of teachers for primary schools.

Tuition and fees of teacher training education programs for teachers in senior high and the

lower level schools are basically paid by trainees themselves. However, full or partial financial assistance are available for some students. Full program of teacher training include common courses, disciplinary courses, education specialization courses, and a half-year of teaching practicum. Those who meet the program requirements obtain a certificate. They must then also pass the teacher qualification exam held by the Ministry of Education for final teacher qualification.

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.

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

(C) Associate Professor:

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

(b) earning a doctor's degree or equivalent diploma, having previously been involved in research of their specific academic area, having held a position in their specific professional field for more than four years and having specialized publications in their academic area.

(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.