

ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PATHWAYS

The District offers a number of Grow Your Own Programs (GYO) to encourage, incent, and support individuals in becoming teachers in Tucson Unified. Through our partnerships with local community colleges and universities, the following alternative teacher pathway programs are available.

Alternative Teacher Pathway Programs and Contact information:

- ***Arizona Early Childhood Education Workforce Registry***

This registry will help individuals on the career path toward early childhood education. By joining this registry, candidates can Access First Things First College Scholarships to take college classes toward a degree or credential in early childhood, now only available through the Registry.

- Benefits of the Registry:
 - Information on early childhood degree programs (2 year and 4 year)
 - Access First Things First College Scholarships; (formerly T.E.A.C.H. and PCPP, now only available through the Registry)
 - Scholarships currently available to pay for tuition through September 2023
 - Scholarships will pay for associate's, bachelor's or master's degree, in early childhood education.

To learn more about the program, see [Arizona Early Childhood Workforce Registry \(azregistry.org\)](https://azregistry.org)

- ***Arizona State University – Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College***

Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College is a top-ranked college of education that is willing and able to work with school and systems leaders anywhere to empower the education workforce by developing better ways for people to enter the profession, specialize and advance.

To learn more about this program, see [Professional Pathways | Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College \(asu.edu\)](https://www.asu.edu/professional-pathways)

- ***ASU SYNC – Paraprofessionals - Earn your Bachelors in Teaching in Tucson***

Arizona State University (ASU) Sync provides students with technology-enhanced, fully interactive remote learning. It offers the benefits of face-to-face instruction in an interactive group learning environment. 24/7 support from the ASU Experience Center. Paraprofessional work hours count toward program credit hours once accepted into program. Discounted tuition and may be eligible for additional scholarships via Arizona TEACH grant.

- Attend courses live via ASU Sync (Zoom) in the early evenings
- Work in the classroom during the day as a paraprofessional/long-term sub/etc.
- Paid work hours may be counted as student teaching hours to ensure paraprofessionals do not have to quit their jobs
- Tuition discounted for our ASU Sync
 - Grants may be available to cover total cost of tuition
- Certification Programs:
 - Special Education
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Elementary Education
 - Secondary Education

To learn more about the program, see [Paraprofessionals | Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College \(asu.edu\)](https://www.asu.edu/professional-pathways) or if anyone would like to speak about these offerings and/or an academic planning meeting with Christopher Bell, please contact him directly at [602-543-5146](tel:602-543-5146) or schedule a meeting by clicking the following link: <https://calendly.com/cbell-mlftcstatewide/mary-lou-fulton-teachers-college-admissions-advising>.

ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PATHWAYS

- **Grand Canyon University**

GCU offers a pathway to teaching with an education degree programs that leads to licensure in the College of Education that are approved by the Arizona Department of Education. They offer initial teacher preparation options for bachelor's and master's education degrees. Field experience, exam preparation and student teaching as a part of the program.

To learn more about the program, see [College of Education - Online Education Degrees | GCU](#)

- Zuhaila Orozco, Development Counselor at zuhaila.orozco@gcu.edu or 602-247-3610
- Holly Barnett, MBA Development Counselor at holly.barnett@gcu.edu or 602-639-7002
- Luis Barnett, Doctoral Development Counselor at luis.barnett@gcu.edu or 520-792-7817

- **Northern Arizona University Teacher Intern Preparatory Program (TIPP)**

NAU's Teacher Intern Preparatory Program (TIPP) is an alternative pathway offered to enable a candidate to enter into a teaching contract while completing the requirements for a standard Arizona teaching certificate.

To learn more about the program, see [Teacher Intern Preparation Program | College of Education \(nau.edu\)](#)

- **Pima Community College – Teacher Education**

PCC is offering the opportunity to earn, elementary, secondary or special education teaching certificates for candidates who hold a current bachelor's degree. As for cost of the program, Pima's Teachers Education program has been selected by the State of Arizona to offer the Arizona Teacher's Academy, which offers scholarships covering tuition and fees.

To learn more about the program, contact Tirza Sanders at tsanders4@pima.edu or 520-206-5385 or, see [Teacher Education | Pima Community College, Tucson, Arizona](#)

- **Rio Salado Teacher in Residence Post Baccalaureate Program**

The post baccalaureate educator preparation program and the bachelor's degree educator program pathway are designed to meet the coursework requirements for a certified educator in the State of Arizona.

To learn more about the program, see [Teacher in Residence Orientation | Rio Salado College](#)

- **University of Arizona – Fellows Pathway to Teaching**

What makes the fellowship experience different? For one, districts select and interview candidates to name as fellows, and then if a student is selected, they fulfill their student teaching and field experience requirements in that district as part of the district community or the 'Fellows family.' Secondly, it affords students a step-up as a job seeker in that district and they will be especially recognized for being a fellow.

- Applications are accepted December 20 – March 1 each year.
- Tuition may be covered through a combination of forgivable loans and scholarships such as Arizona Teachers Academy.
- Financial Support offered
 - Receive a \$1,000 stipend at the start of Fellows program
 - Receive a \$1,000 stipend at the start of student teaching,
 - Receive \$400 stipend at mid-point of student teaching, and
 - Receive \$400 stipend at successful completion of student teaching.

To learn more about the program, see [Become an Arizona Teaching Fellow | College of Education - University of Arizona](#)

ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PATHWAYS

- **University of Arizona - Pathways to Teaching**

Pathways to Teaching is a new, innovative College of Education Teacher Preparation Program that seeks to “grow our own” teachers by supporting district partner-area residents in earning a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with an ESL endorsement.

- Earn a bachelor’s degree with an English as a Second Language endorsement
- Full tuition covered through the Arizona Teachers Academy. Total estimated out-of-pocket cost is only \$456.95 throughout the program.
- Receive a \$1,000 monthly stipend so you can focus on becoming the best teacher possible
- 17-month program that starts in January and graduates in May the next year. Add an additional year for special education certification.

To learn more about the program contact Maria Orozco at morozco1@arizona.edu or see <https://coe.arizona.edu/pathways-teaching>

- **University of Arizona – College of Education M.Ed. Secondary Education Alternative Path Program**

The M.Ed. Secondary Education Alternative Path Program is a two-year, professional, alternative certificate program in which students as teachers, meet certification requirements and earn a master’s degree while teaching full-time in middle or high schools. The program requires placement in a Southern Arizona Middle or High School and there are generous financial incentives available for this program.

To learn more about the program, see [Alternative Path Program \(Alternative Teaching Certificate M.Ed.\) | College of Education - University of Arizona.](#)

For any additional information regarding these Alternative Pathway Programs, please contact:



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