

Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL)
FAQ's Computer Science Option
Updated December 2016

What is the incentive offered to those who want to teach Computer Science through the non-traditional APPEL route?

The Arkansas Department of Education will pay full tuition for up to two years for the first 50 qualified Computer Science candidates who enroll in the APPEL program. Qualified candidates must fully enroll by the June 2, 2017, deadline. Funding is subject to availability and will be credited as the candidate completes the entire application process.

What is the APPEL Program and who can participate?

APPEL is an alternate route to obtaining an Arkansas teaching license for those holding at least a four-year degree in an area other than education. It is preferred but not mandatory that the degree is in Computer Science or a related field. APPEL is a two-year preparation track. Participants are issued a two-year APPEL Provisional Teaching License.

What is the APPEL Provisional Teaching License?

A two-year provisional license issued to a **fully admitted** participant in the APPEL Program for the purpose of teaching on a part-time (at least 3 hours per day) or full-time basis as teacher-of-record in an Arkansas public or private (with a certified mentor) school. The license can be issued for up to two (2) Secondary grades 7-12 content subject areas. This includes the area of Computer Science that covers grades 4-12.

What is needed to qualify for full admission to APPEL?

To qualify applicants must document:

- A bachelor's degree or higher with a minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.70, or a 2.90 in the last sixty (60) hours of coursework completed, and
- Passing scores on the *Praxis* CORE (R,W,M): 5751 exams, OR
- Passing score(s) on an approved equivalent exam, and
- Passing score(s) on the *Praxis* Subject Assessments (formerly *Praxis* II exams), specifically the Computer Science: 5651 exam, and
- Clearance of all required background checks for teacher licensure in Arkansas, and
- Completed APPEL Online Application

Contact the APPEL office at 501-371-1582 or via email at ade.appel@arkansas.gov for information on Conditional Admission (in regards to GPA requirement) and/or approved equivalent exam scores.

Where and when do I apply for APPEL?

Applications are accepted from February 15, 2017 to June 2, 2017. The APPEL online application is available during the application window at www.arkansased.gov, search APPEL.



Which documentation is required for admission and how do I submit documents?

For very detailed and explicit information regarding how to submit transcripts, test scores, etc. it is highly recommended that you view the APPEL 2017-2018 FAQ document available on the ADE website. To access this document go to www.arkansased.gov click “A” and click the APPEL link. You will find it on the APPEL page on the right under Related Files.

What happens once my application and documentation are received by APPEL?

Within 7-10 business days of receipt of ALL documents AND online application, approved applicants will receive an email with information to access the APPEL acceptance letter and Employment Eligibility Form, to include:

- site assignment showing where applicant will attend APPEL Modules, and
- specific information about the site and the names of the site facilitators, and
- details about the APPEL Orientation meeting and how to register for orientation

This is the documentation that guarantees to the district’s hiring official that you are employable as teacher of record and will be licensed upon hire.

What are APPEL Instructional Modules and Assessments?

APPEL Instructional Modules are designed to provide participants the understanding of what accomplished beginning teaching looks like in a classroom. Instruction includes how to teach in the specific subject area of Computer Science.

When and how do participants attend Instructional Modules?

Instructional modules are offered at regional sites throughout the state both face-to-face (F2F) and online (OL) for the duration of two years. Participants choose the site when applying. Participants attend:

- three (3) weeks of modules in the month of June each year of the two-year program, and
- eight (8) monthly modules during the school year each year of the two-year program in September-April,
- June modules are F2F on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm each day, and
- four (4) F2F modules, one Saturday, in the months of Sept., Nov., Feb., and April, and
- four (4) OL modules are completed in the months of Oct., Dec., Jan., and March

For more information please contact the APPEL Program office at 501-371-1582 or email ade.appel@arkansas.gov.

