

Executive Summary: Nevada State University Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) Application

1. Institutional Profile and Program Mission

Nevada State University (NSU), situated in Henderson, NV, is driven by the conviction that excellence fosters opportunity. Their mission is to catalyze economic mobility for all Nevadans through rigorous teaching, accessible degree pathways, and a supportive, holistic learning environment. Under the leadership of Associate Dean Dr. Felix Simieou, the School of Education (SOE) has designed this Educator Preparation Program (EPP) for Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL) to specifically address the critical teacher shortage and the evolving needs of Nevada's workforce. Their application demonstrates institutional readiness to serve as a pipeline for highly qualified, standards-aligned educators.

2. Comprehensive Licensure and Endorsement Scope

The NSU ARL program provides a robust selection of licensure areas and endorsements designed to meet the high-need demands of the **Clark County School District (CCSD)** and **Nevada state-approved charter schools**:

- **Early Childhood Education:** Birth to Grade 2.
- **Elementary Education:** Grades K–8 (All Subjects).
- **Secondary Education:** Grades 7–12 (English, Mathematics, Biology, Physical Science, and Social Studies). These endorsements are strictly aligned with the **Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS)**.
- **Special Education:**
 - Generalist (K-12).
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder (Ages 3–21).
 - Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed.

3. Programmatic Design and Pathways to Completion

NSU has designed a two-year, hybrid-format sequence that balances academic rigor with the practical needs of Nevada's teaching workforce. This model facilitates continuous enrollment (minimum of 6 credits per semester) across three cohort start options (Fall, Spring, Summer). Candidates serve as teachers of record for 2–3 years under a provisional license, ensuring sustained instructional development.

4. Multi-Tiered Screening and Selection Process

To maintain high professional standards and ensure program viability, NSU utilizes a rigorous three-phase selection process:

1. **Phase 1 (Submission):** Applicants submit comprehensive materials, including official transcripts, a current resume, professional references, and a personal statement.
2. **Phase 2 (Screening):** The School of Education conducts a review of qualifications, requiring a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 and background clearance. Critical weight is placed on the alignment of the candidate's professional experiences with program expectations to ensure classroom readiness.
3. **Phase 3 (Admission):** Qualified candidates receive a Letter of Eligibility, authorizing them to apply for provisional licensure through the NDE OPAL system.

5. Candidate Support and Licensure Readiness

The NSU program is designed to remove systemic and financial barriers, directly supporting NSU's mission of economic mobility through:

- **Testing Infrastructure:** For candidates facing hurdles with the Praxis Core, they offer targeted clinical support via EDU 163, 164, and 165.
- **Praxis Bridge:** A state-approved option for candidates who narrowly miss passing scores, allowing them to demonstrate mastery through intensive modules and performance assessments.
- **Advanced Professional Development:** All candidates must complete a mandatory full-day workshop funded by Nevada State Bank. The curriculum covers Classroom Management, Family Communication and Community Engagement, Working with English Language Learners, and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.

6. Financial Capacity and Sustainability

NSU maintains the fiscal and physical infrastructure to sustain a high-quality EPP. Fiscal oversight is centralized through the University's Business Office, leveraging existing school of education resources. Viability is further bolstered by strategic partnerships with CCSD and the following funding streams:

- **Teach Nevada Scholarship:** Provides tuition support and stipends to reduce financial barriers during the final two semesters.

7. Mentorship and Educator Effectiveness

One strength of the NSU ARL program is its adherence to the **Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF)**. Candidates are led by faculty experts.

- **Instructional Mentoring:** Candidates receive monthly site-based mentor meetings and university supervisor feedback documented through formal logs.

- **Capstone Portfolio:** Candidates must produce a final portfolio demonstrating mastery of Nevada standards, utilizing student achievement data and evidence of culturally responsive instruction.

8. Review process and Invitation for Comprehensive Review

Multi-Tiered NDE Review Process

The application has been vetted through the following NDE regulatory tiers:

- **Administrative Review:** Internal processing and verification of application completeness.
- **Licensure Analyst Review:** Verification of compliance with state statutes and regulations.
- **SME Review:** Subject Matter Expert evaluation by the offices of Teaching and Learning, Early Learning, and Comprehensive Student Services.
- **COPS Member Review:** Final oversight by select members of the Commission on Professional Standards.

Invitation for Comprehensive Review

Commission members are invited to review the complete application and supporting documentation, which includes full course syllabi, faculty CVs, and reviews. To access the full application packet please contact Dr. Jackie Nygaard at Jackie.nygaard@doe.nv.gov.

Nevada State University is fully prepared to implement this program, strengthening the state's educator pipeline and ensuring every Nevada student is served by a highly effective teacher.