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Frequently Asked Questions about Related Master's degrees in education that do NOT automatically lead to a certificate.

1. Must the Master's degree focus on Pre K-12 education?

Yes, any of the education focused Master's degrees that are not pre-approved as leading to a certificate must focus on teaching in PreK-12 schools.

2. I would like to complete a Master's degree in Special Education, would that qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Yes. Since all teachers are expected to work with learners of all abilities, and have knowledge about how to work with students with disabilities, a Master's degree that focuses on special education would qualify.

3. Would a Master's degree in Literacy qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Yes, since the ability to teach reading, writing, listening and speaking (all components of literacy) is considered an essential skill for all teachers, a Master's degree in literacy that focuses on developmental or remedial reading would qualify.

4. There are a number of programs that focus on instructional technology. Would such a Master's degree qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Yes, since all teachers are expected to be able to use multimedia technologies or audiovisual aids as a tool to enhance the teaching and learning process, a Master's degree in instructional (educational) technology would qualify. For more information on what is considered education technology please see:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/initiatives/definition.html>

5. Would a Master's degree in teaching English as a second language or bilingual education qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Yes. Since teachers are expected to have pedagogical knowledge, understanding, and skills that promote language acquisition and literacy development for students who are English language learners such Master's degrees would qualify.

6. If I complete a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, would that qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Yes. Since all such Master's degree would require that you focus your efforts on writing curriculum and or lesson plans for the content area in which you are certified, they would qualify.

7. Which Master's degrees in education, that do not lead to a certificate, would **not** qualify for use in earning the Professional certificate?

Master's degrees in the following would **not** be acceptable:

- General Education
- Education Psychology
- Vocational Technical Education
- Non-teacher education Master's degrees
- Higher Education