Degree to Certification Program

Process of completing the degree to certification program:

- Focused on Paraprofessionals but can be for anyone who faces difficulties with losing income during the student teaching semester
- Student can complete entire program with us or bring in transfer credit/Associates degree from another institution and focus on coursework for the major
- Complete Educational Studies degree first, selecting coursework for the 30 credit elective options that would meet requirements for a certification endorsement (suggested endorsement options that are provided through the alternative format schedule are K-12 Special Education and B-3 Early Childhood Education Unified)
- Once bachelor’s degree in Education is completed, return to Peru State to complete remaining requirements for certification endorsement. This will include:
  - any remaining courses and practicum experiences in the endorsement major that were not completed as part of the Educational Studies degree option
  - Educ 400 Professional & Collaborative Practices (3)
  - Student Teaching (12)
  - Educ 420 Student Teaching Seminar (1)

How is student teaching completed “on the job”?

- An individual who holds a bachelor’s degree in any area, has completed at least 75% of the coursework for the endorsement major, and has completed 50% of the professional education coursework is eligible for a Provisional Commitment certificate, which allows the individual to teach full-time while completing the remainder of the certification program requirements.
- The individual must successfully apply for a teaching position and be hired by a school district. That school district then notifies Peru State that it is hiring the individual and requests Peru State to recommend the Provisional Commitment certificate, which will allow the individual to be certified to teach in that district.
- The student teaching requirements for the endorsement program can then be completed within that teaching assignment during the first year of employment, with the principal or department chair serving as the cooperating teacher.
- Once all requirements for certification have been met, Peru State will recommend an Initial Teaching certificate to replace the Provisional Commitment certificate, which allows the individual to teach anywhere in the state of Nebraska.

What are options for financial aid during this degree to certification process?

- Financial aid would be available for any individual completing his/her first bachelor’s degree to complete the requirements for the Educational Studies degree.
- Once the degree is completed, aid for the remaining certification coursework may be available in the form of loans, but the individual will need to meet specific criteria for applying for additional financial support beyond the degree. Peru State’s Financial Aid office is available to answer questions.