

### Existing Options for Teacher Certification in Computer Science

*This table describes existing and potential pathways and processes for candidates to become certified in Computer Science.*

All teacher certification candidates must present qualifying scores as established by the State Superintendent of Schools on one of the basic skills teacher certification tests (Praxis Core, SAT, ACT, or GRE). Go to [www.mdcert.org](http://www.mdcert.org) and look under Testing Information/Basic Skills for qualifying scores.

	<b>Existing Options</b>	<b>Applicable Grades</b>	<b>Process</b>
I.	Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) <a href="#">13A.12.02.06</a> <i>Certification in General Secondary Content Areas (Transcript Analysis)</i>	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science; or</li> <li>• Have 30 semester hours or more of Computer Science content taken at an Institution of Higher Education; and</li> <li>• Complete 21 semester hours of professional education coursework;</li> <li>• Complete 1 year of successful teaching experience at the appropriate grade/age level;</li> <li>• Present a passing score on one of the basic skills teacher certification tests (see above); and</li> <li>• Present a passing score on the Computer Science Praxis II exam.</li> </ul>
II.	COMAR <a href="#">13A.12.02.15</a> <i>Certification in Professional and Technical Education (PTE)</i>  <i>Applies to a candidate who will teach in a state approved Computer Science Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program of Study (e.g. PLTW Computer Science)</i>	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the educational and/or occupational requirements under 13A.12.02.15 in the career area of Computer Science; and</li> <li>• Complete the professional education courses, if required; and</li> <li>• Present a passing score on one of the basic skills teacher certification tests (see above)</li> </ul>
III.	Endorsement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praxis II Exam</li> <li style="text-align: center;">or</li> <li>• 30 credits in content area through an IHE</li> </ul>	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a valid, professional teaching certificate; and</li> <li>• Present a passing score on the Praxis II Content test in Computer Science</li> <li style="text-align: center;">or</li> <li>• Submit 15 credits in Computer Science and 15 credits in related content</li> </ul>

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	<b>Existing Options</b>	<b>Applicable Grades</b>	<b>Process</b>
IV.	Alternative Certification Programs	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally developed, but state approved</li> <li>• Hold a bachelor’s degree</li> <li>• Take coursework identified by the local school system</li> <li>• Present a passing score on one of the basic skills teacher certification tests (see above); and</li> <li>• Present a passing score on the Computer Science Praxis II exam</li> </ul>
V.	Computer Science Accelerated Certificate in Teaching/Master of Arts in Teaching	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notre Dame – Accelerated Certificate in teaching; graduate level</li> <li>• UMUC - Master of Arts in Teaching; on-line; graduate level</li> <li>• Present a passing score on the Praxis II in Computer Science</li> </ul>
VI.	<p>COMAR <a href="#">13A.12.02.29</a> <i>Instructional Leader: STEM</i></p> <p><i>This is an endorsement</i></p> <p><i>To make it relevant for computer science content at the elementary/middle school level, the individual must take content related to Computer Science such as PLTW Launch (elementary) or Gateway (middle) professional development training.</i></p>	Grades PreK-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a valid, professional teaching certificate; and</li> <li>• Meet the requirements set forth in 13A.12.02.29; and</li> <li>• Take content related to Computer Science (e.g. PLTW Launch training)</li> </ul>

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VII.	<p>Other teacher certification areas that align to MSDE’s state approved Computer Science Career and Technology Education (CTE) Programs of Study</p> <p><i>Applies to a person who will teach in a state approved Computer Science CTE Program of Study (e.g. PLTW Computer Science)</i></p>	Grades 7-12	<p>If an individual holds or is eligible for certification under COMAR <a href="#">13A.12.02.06</a> Computer Science, Mathematics, Technology Education, or Business Education then that person may teach courses in a state approved Computer Science Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program of Study.</p>

**Contact the Maryland State Department of Education’s Certification Branch with any questions.**

**Website:** [http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/certification/certification\\_branch/](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/divisions/certification/certification_branch/)

**Certification Assistance Line**

Maryland State Department of Education  
 200 West Baltimore Street  
 Baltimore, MD 21201  
 Phone: 410-767-0412  
 TTY/TDD: 410-333-6442

Phone: 1-866-772-8922 (toll free)