



National Board Certification is an **advanced voluntary certification** candidates have said is a rigorous process taking between 200-400 hours to complete. This process is not required by the State of Washington, but achieving National Board Certification can be used to apply for Washington State's Professional Teaching Certificate.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Eligibility Requirements*

- Hold a bachelor's degree
- Have completed three full years of teaching/counseling experience
- Possess a valid state teaching/counseling license for that period of time, or, if teaching where a license is not required, have taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the state

*Please see the attached 2008 Guide to National Board Certification for more specific eligibility information.

Professional Certification is a second tier state licensure designed to meet the needs of teachers in the first years of their career. Completing the professional certification process in Washington State is required to obtain a Professional Certificate.*

*After January 2000 teachers who received their teaching license in Washington State are required to obtain their professional certificate. Please make sure you know your WA state teaching certificate expiration date and understand your options for completing a program to fulfill the Professional Certificate requirement.

It is very important to know your WA state certificate expiration date and the implications for renewal and program options.

More information about Professional Certification can be found at:
<http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/ProfEd/profcertprograms.aspx>

More information about WA state certification can be found at:
 (certification page link)

National Board Certification is not a guarantee. The national certification rate for NBPTS hovers around 40% from year to year. While the Washington State system of support for National Board candidacy means our state certification rate is higher, there is still a chance that a candidate may go through all 3 years of candidacy and still not certify with NBPTS. While this is not meant to discourage a teacher or counselor from going through the process, it is important information to have before entering the process.