

Credentialing for Classroom Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessional

Pathways



LOUISIANA COMMUNITY &
TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Postsecondary Pathways to Becoming a Highly-Qualified Paraprofessional

Paraprofessionals play a vital role in elementary and secondary classrooms assisting teachers and creating an environment that improves learning outcomes for children. As you may know, there are new requirements to become or to remain a paraprofessional educator. If you have felt confused by these requirements and how to meet them, or if you wonder how to make a decision that is right for you, perhaps this guide will help.

You will learn about the options that are available and what your choices concerning those options can mean for you. As you read, ask yourself questions to determine the kind of career you would enjoy and whether you are willing to take the necessary path to get there.

Am I ready to take a test? Do I want someone to look at my college credits and tell me my options? Do I eventually want to go on to manage a child care center? Have I always wanted to be a classroom teacher in the local school system?

Consider what you really want for your career, and then follow the pathway, or combination of pathways, that lead to your goal. Pathways are color-coded and named to make selecting the appropriate information easy for you. Directions assist in your journey and let you know when you should move to another pathway.

At the end of this guide are lists of places and people you can contact to further answer your questions. Enjoy your journey and the rewards that await you in the winners' circle – pride in yourself for the contribution you make and appreciation on the faces of the children you help.



Credentials Avenue:

Credit hours that lead to a credential. Particular to a given school system.



Testing Lane:

Testing Only for Paraprofessionals



48 Credit Hours Highway:

Leading to credit hours. Acceptability particular to a given employer or to a college credential.



Technical Diploma Intersection:

Certificate or Diploma



Associate Degree Street:

Associate Degree. For transfer or career preparation



Baccalaureate Boulevard:

Baccalaureate Degree. Elementary Teacher, Headstart Director, Child Care Manager.



Winners' Circle:

Rewards at the end of your pathway



Contacts Court:

List of important names and numbers.



Getting Credit Hours that Lead to a Credential

Particular to a given school system

School systems have joined with their local community or technical colleges and four-year institutions to develop a list of acceptable college credit courses that will apply to your career/job needs. They can discuss your future educational plans with you and can help you to plan a pathway that will lead toward your goal(s).

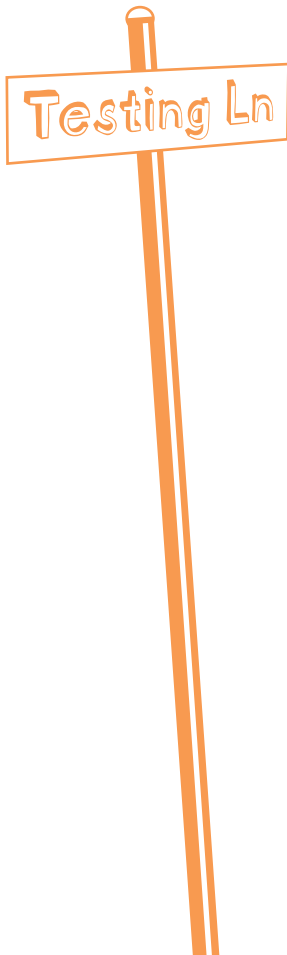
Here are the options available to you:

- Testing
- 48 credit hours
- Technical Diploma
- Associate Degree
- Baccalaureate Degree

Do you want to know more about your options? Review all of the options that follow.

To discuss the most appropriate option for you, first contact the paraprofessional contact person in your local district. ([See Contacts Court](#))





Testing Only

For paraprofessionals.

You want to take the test required of paraprofessionals.
You want to stop there.

Here is the pathway:

- The PRAXIS Para Pro Test (Educational Testing Services) can be taken. You will need to attain a score established by the Louisiana State Department of Education.
- The WorkKeys Test can be taken if accompanied by observations for paraprofessionals hired prior to January 8, 2002.

Check with the paraprofessional contact person in your local school system about these programs and the required scores for these tests.

Preparation opportunities for you to take a practice test or preparatory work are available. Contact the paraprofessional contact person in the local school district, college or university nearest to you for such



Ask yourself:

Do I want someone to look at my college credits and tell me my options? If yes, go to [48 Hours Highway](#).





Leading to Credit Hours

Acceptability is particular to a given employer or to a college credential.

You can meet the requirements of the highly qualified paraprofessional (as defined by No Child Left Behind) by earning 48 credit hours from an accredited college or university. They need to be credit hours that support your academic classroom performance.*

Here are the options:

Your local employer will analyze your college credits for acceptability toward meeting your career/job goals.....

BUT

you might want your local college advisors to analyze your college credits for applicability toward a college or university credential (ex: certificate or degree).

Here are the pathways:

Talk to your paraprofessional contact person with your employer about meeting your job requirements.

(See Contacts Court)

Talk with your local college/university contact person about the college credential that interests you.

(See Contacts Court)

*Examples: reading, writing, mathematics, school readiness





Going for a Technical Diploma

Choose whether you want to stop with a technical diploma or move on to a degree. This is a critical juncture in your pathways.



What is a technical diploma for paraprofessionals at the postsecondary level?

A Technical Diploma is a program study that prepares a person for a particular career. For additional information contact the designated paraprofessional contact person for your local community or technical college. (*Refer to Contact Court*)

With a Technical Diploma such as this (ex: Child Care Management, etc.), course work may not transfer or apply to an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Degree Planning

If you plan to move into a degree program and continue your education and earn an associate or baccalaureate degree, check with the institution conferring the final degree to ensure that the courses will apply toward your major.

Ask yourself:

Do I want to move toward a transferrable degree? This will take careful planning. Go to [Associate Degree Street](#).





Going for the Associate Degree

For transfer associate degree or career development

The best way to avoid “slipping” on your career pathway to your goals is to know your final destination. Not all associate degrees are the same.



Option 1

Any degree carrying the term APPLIED (ex. Applied Associate of Science, Applied Associate of Technology, Baccalaureate of Applied Science, etc.) is designed for Workforce Preparation and not for college transfer. If you plan to stop at the Associate Degree level, earning an appropriate Applied Degree will fulfill current requirements of the current Federal Headstart legislation and No Child Left Behind.

Option 2

If you choose to continue, you have reached another CRITICAL JUNCTURE in your pathways. The Associate of Science degrees are generally designed for transfer. For example, the Associate of Science in Elementary Education and Associate of General Studies are designed for transfer into a baccalaureate degree program that will lead to a BESE-certified Teacher Preparation program.

If you choose to prepare to work with young children (birth to age 8), you have reached another critical juncture in your pathways.

Option 3:

If you want to complete an Associate Degree in General Studies, you will be prepared to apply for entry into Baccalaureate Degree programs leading toward either Option 1 or Option 2. You may however, decide that you will lose too many credits by doing this. Again, check with the university to which you want to transfer. *(See University Contact List at Contacts Court)*

Ask yourself:

Do you plan to go on to earn a Baccalaureate Degree to be a Child Care worker, manager, or owner? Go to **Baccalaureate Boulevard**.



Do you plan to go on to earn a Baccalaureate Degree to be a BESE-certified Elementary teacher in either grades PreK–3 or Grades 1–5? Go to **Baccalaureate Boulevard**.



Associate Degree St





Baccalaureate Degree

Each Baccalaureate degree program carries its own admissions requirements. Check these with the admissions office of the college/university.

Pathway Options:

Option 1: Headstart/Child Care Manager

If you want to be a Headstart director or Child Care owner/ manager, the programs that you will need are housed in the Departments of Family and Consumer Sciences or Human Ecology at most universities. You will want to talk to the appropriate person in the department of the college at the university from which you plan to graduate. ([See University Contact List at Contacts Court](#))

Option 2: BESE Certification

You want to be a BESE-certified teacher. The programs that will help you to accomplish this are housed in universities' colleges of education. You will want to talk with the appropriate person in the college. ([See University Contact List at Contacts Court](#))



Welcome to the Winners' Circle!



You have the pathways and made the contacts necessary to achieve your goals!

So...congratulations!!! You can now look forward to a rewarding career in the classroom.

Brought to you as a partnership service of the Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana State Department of Education, Louisiana Headstart Office, and participating colleges and universities.



Contact Court

Title I, II, and IV Contacts for School System Paraprofessionals:

Parish:	Phone:
Acadia	(337) 783-3664
Allen	(337) 639-4311
Ascension	(225) 621-2300 ext 242
Assumption	(985) 369-7251
Avoyelles	(318) 253-5178
Beauregard	(337) 463-5551
Bienville	(318) 263-9416
Bogalusa City	(985) 735-1392
Bossier	(318) 549-5505
Caddo	(318) 603-7106
Calcasieu	(318) 437-1293
Caldwell	(318) 649-5201
Cameron	(337) 775-5784
Catahoula	(318) 744-5727
Claiborne	(318) 927-3502
Concordia	(318) 336-4226
Dept. of Corrections	(225) 342-6740
DeSoto	(318) 872-2836
East Baton Rouge	(225) 922-5618
East Carroll	(318) 559-2222
East Feliciana	(225) 683-3040
Evangeline	(318) 363-5842
Franklin	(318) 435-9711
Grant	(318) 627-3274
Iberia	(337) 365-2341
Iberville	(225) 687-4341
Jackson	(318) 259-4514
Jefferson	(504) 349-7802
Jefferson Davis	(337) 824-1834
Lafayette	(337) 236-6825
Lafourche	(985) 446-5631
LaSalle	(318) 992-2161
Lincoln	(318) 255-1430
Livingston	(225) 686-4221
LSJ	(225) 757-3202
Madison	(318) 574-3616
Monroe City	(318) 325-0601
Morehouse	(318) 281-5784
Natchitoches	(318) 352-2358
Orleans	(504) 365-8730
Ouachita	(388) 388-2711
Plaquemines	(985) 564-3806
Pointe Coupee	(225) 638-8674
Rapides	(318) 487-0888
Red River	(318) 932-4081
Richland	(318) 728-5964
Sabine	(318) 256-9228
SSD #1	(225) 342-3538
SSD #2	(225) 342-3549
St. Bernard	(504) 301-2000
St. Charles	(985) 785-3101
St. Helena	(225) 222-4349
St. James	(225) 869-5375
St. John Baptist	(985) 536-1106
St. Landry	(337) 948-3657
St. Martin	(337) 394-6261
St. Mary	(337) 836-9661
St. Tammany	(985) 892-2276
Tangipahoa	(985) 748-7153
Tensas	(318) 766-3260
Terrebonne	(985) 876-7400
Union	(318) 368-9715
Vermillion	(337) 898-5749
Vernon	(337) 239-1630
West Baton Rouge	(225) 343-8309
West Carroll	(318) 428-3775
West Feliciana	(225) 635-3891
Washington	(985) 839-3436
Webster	(318) 377-7052 ext. 230
Winn	(318) 628-6936

Local Community and Technical College Contacts:

Baton Rouge Community College (225) 216-8700, www.mybr.cc

Bossier Parish Community College (318) 746-9851, www.bpcc.edu

Delgado Community College (504) 485-2378, www.dcc.edu

L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College (985) 857-3659, www.lefletcher.edu

Louisiana Delta Community College (318) 362-5483, www.ladelta.cc.la.us

Louisiana Technical College (225) 219-9532, www.theltc.net

Nunez Community College (504) 680-2240, www.nunez.edu

River Parishes Community College (225) 675-8270, <http://rpcc.cc.la.us>

South Louisiana Community College (337) 984-3684, www.slcc.cc.la.us

SOWELA Technical Community College (337) 491-2698, www.sowela.net

Other 2-year Colleges:

LSU–Eunice, (337) 550-1308
www.lsu.eunice.edu

Southern University–Shreveport, (318) 674-3431

Contacts for Departments of Human Ecology, Family, and Consumer Sciences

Grambling State University, (318) 274-2781
Dept of Home Economics (318) 274-2249 and 2311

Louisiana Tech, Dean of the Colleges of Applied Natural Sciences
School of Human Ecology/ Child and Family Studies, (318) 257-3727

LSU A&M, School of Human Ecology, (225) 578-2404

McNeese State University (337) 475-5684
Family and Consumer Science Department (337) 475-5684

Nicholls State University, Department of Family, Consumer and Agricultural Sciences (985) 448-4691

Northwestern State University, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Dr. Patricia Pierson, (318) 357-5587

Southeastern Louisiana University, Department of Human Development
Dr. Debrah Johnson, (985) 549-2309

Southern A&M, Family and Consumer Sciences, (225) 771-4660

University of Louisiana at Lafayette, College of Applied Life Science
School of Human Ecology/ Child and Family Studies, (337) 482-6967

University of Louisiana at Monroe, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, (318) 342-1903 or 343-5690



College of Education Deans

Centenary College of Louisiana,
Dr. Sue Hernandez
(318) 869-5066

Dillard University,
Dr. Kassie Freeman
(504) 816-4747

Grambling State University,
Dr. Andolyn Harrison
(318) 274-2231

Louisiana College, Dr. Joe Aguiard
(318) 487-7303

Louisiana Tech University,
Dr. Jo Ann Dauzar
(318) 257-3715

Loyola University of New Orleans,
Dr. Kevin Fall
(504) 864-7840

Louisiana State University,
Dr. Barbara Fuhrmann
(225) 578-1258

Louisiana State University in Alexandria
Judy Rundell
(318) 473-6506

Louisiana State University in Shreveport,
Dr. Gale Bridger
(318) 795-4279

McNeese State University,
Dr. Joe Savoie
(337) 475-5432

Northwestern State University,
Dr. John Tollett
(337) 357-6288

LSU-Shreveport, Dr. Gail Bridger
(318) 797-5381

Nicholls State University,
Dr. Cleveland Hill
(985) 448-4325

Our Lady of Holy Cross College,
Dr. Judith Miranti
(504) 398-2214

Southeastern Louisiana State University, Dr.
Martha Thornhill
(985) 549-2217

Southern University at New Orleans,
Dr. Rose Duhon-Sells
(504) 286-5091

University of Louisiana at Monroe,
Dr. Luke Thomas
(318) 342-1235

Southern University and A&M University, Dr.
Ivory Toldson
(225) 771-2290

Southern University at New Orleans
(504) 286-5351

Southern University at Shreveport
Carl Gant
(318)674-3445

Tulane University
Teri Davis
(540) 865-5340

University of Louisiana at Lafayette,
Dr. Gerald Carlson
(337) 482-1026

University of New Orleans,
Dr. James Meza
(504) 280-6719

Xavier University of New Orleans,
Dr. Rosalind Hale
(504) 483-7536

Louisiana Head Start Association

Acadia Parish School Board
(337) 783-6377

Allen Action Agency
(337) 639-4348

Ascension Parish School Board
(225)474-2740

Assumption Parish School Board
(504) 369-9735

Avoyelles Progress Action
Committee
(318) 985-2717

Bossier Police Jury
(318) 747-1045

Caddo Community Action
Agency
(318) 868-6360

Calcasieu Parish
(337) 439-1344

Cameron Community Action
Agency
(337) 775-2910

Genla Community Action
Agency
(318) 487-5879

Child Development Council of
Acadiana, Inc./St. Landry Parish
(337) 942-9669

Community Development, Inc.
(CDC)
(318) 435-3148

Delta Community Action
(318) 574-2130

East Baton Rouge Parish
(225) 358-4504

Evangeline Community Action
(337) 363-5028

East Carroll Parish Police Jury
(318) 559-2450

Grant Parish Police Jury
(318) 627-5501

Iberville Office of Community
Services
(225) 685-5200

Jefferson Community Action
(504) 736-6850

Lafourche Parish Council
(985) 537-7603

LaSalle Community Action
Association
(318) 744-5445

Lincoln Total Community Action
(318) 251-8864

MCIO
(318) 281-7922

Natchitoches Parish Police Jury
(318) 357-2220

Ouachita Multi-Purpose C.A.A.
(318) 340-9677

Pine Belt Multi-Purpose Agency
(318) 259-2474

Plaquemine Parish School Board
(985) 564-2743 or 2681

Pointe Coupee Community
Advancement
(225) 638-9524

Quad Area Woodlawn C.A.A.
(225) 683-4234

Regina Coelia CDC, Inc.
(985) 892-1204

Sabine Parish School Board
(318) 256-6143

SMILE Community Action
(337) 394-6071

Southside Development Corp.
(337) 824-5430

St. Bernard Parish School
(504) 301-2000

St. Charles Parish School Board
(985) 785-6289

St. James Parish Council
(225) 562-2359

St. John Parish School Board
(985) 536-1106

St. Mary Community Action
(337) 828-5703

Tensas Parish School Board
(318) 467-2157

Total Community Action
(504) 827-2234

St. Mary CAA at Vermillion
(337) 898-2528

Vernon Parish School Board
(337) 239-6899

Webster Parish Community
(318) 377-7022

West Feliciana Parish School
(225) 635-5449

Local School Systems

Baker City School System
(225) 774-5795

Zachary City School System
(225) 658-4969