

# Teacher Training/Licensing System in Japan

## (1) License-oriented policy and Principal of Open System

### License-oriented policy

Teachers must have a relevant license granted in accordance with the Teachers License Act.  
(Article 3, Paragraph 1 of the Act)

### Principal of Open System

Teacher training in Japan is conducted by general universities and teacher-training universities exercising their respective characteristics.

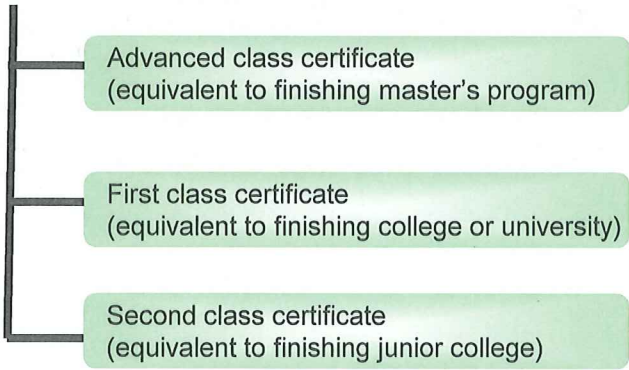
## (2) License Types

Granted for each school type (by subject for junior high/senior high schools)

(1) Ordinary License  
(valid for 10 years)

(2) Special License  
(valid for 10 years)

(3) Temporary License  
(valid for 3 years)

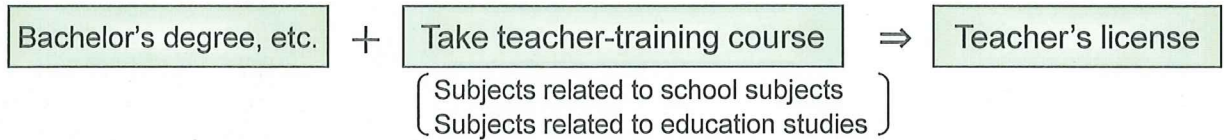


- Granted by Prefectural boards of education
- Effective Area of License
  - Ordinary license: All the prefectures
  - Special license
  - Temporary license

} Within the prefecture where license was granted

### (3) Licensing

(1) "Training at a university" is fundamental.



(2) For the purpose of promoting the self-development of incumbent teachers, the higher class license is open to those who have worked as a teacher for some years and received the necessary course credits from universities or the equivalent.

#### Ordinary License

**Number of licenses granted in 2008: 217,626**

(breakdown) Advanced class certificate: 15,599

First class certificate: 154,590

Second class certificate: 47,437

Necessary credits acquired in universities or colleges

	Advanced class certificate	First class certificate	Second class certificate
Kindergarten teachers	83	59	39
Primary School teachers	91	67	45
Junior high school teachers	91	67	43
Senior high school teachers	91	67	—

Credits required for a primary school teachers

■ Courses related to school subjects (\*1)    ■ Courses related to education studies (\*2)

■ Courses related to school subjects or education studies

Master's + \*3

→ Advanced class certificate

Bachelor's + \*3

→ First class certificate

Finishing Junior college + \*3

→ Second class certificate

Credits required for a junior high school teachers

Master's +		*3	→ Advanced class certificate
Bachelor's +		*3	→ First class certificate
Finishing Junior college +		*3	→ Second class certificate

Credits required for a senior high school teachers

Master's +		*3	→ Advanced class certificate
Bachelor's +		*3	→ First class certificate

Credits required for a kindergarten teachers

Master's +		*3	→ Advanced class certificate
Bachelor's +		*3	→ First class certificate
Finishing Junior college +		*3	→ Second class certificate

\*1 For a teaching license for kindergarten, one or more courses shall be taken in the Japanese language, mathematics, life environment studies, music, arts and handicrafts, and physical education.

For a teaching license for primary school, one or more courses shall be taken in the Japanese language, social studies, mathematics, science, life environment studies, music, arts and handicrafts, home economics, and physical education.

For a teaching license for junior and senior high school, required courses are listed by subject specific to the license: Japanese language (Japanese philology and Japanese literature, etc.), mathematics (algebra and geometry), and science (physics and chemistry).

\*2 Courses related to the significance of the profession, basic theory of education, curriculum and teaching methods, student guidance, educational counseling and career guidance, teaching practicum, and practical exercises in education.

\*3 Other than the above, courses shall be taken (2 credits for each) in the Constitution of Japan, physical education, Communication by foreign language, and the operation of information devices. For a teaching license for primary school and junior high school, care experience is also necessary.

## Special License

**Number of licenses granted in 2008: 56**

(total number of licenses granted from 1989-2008: 346)

“Teacher’s” license granted to members of society who passed the educational personnel examination held by the prefectural board of education for the purpose of adopting such individuals with excellent knowledge and/or experience but with no license as teachers (granted by each school type and subject)

- Requirements: 1) Expertise, experience, and skills related to the relevant subjects
- 2) Social prestige, enthusiasm, and insight necessary for fulfilling the duties of a teacher

## Temporary License

**Number of licenses granted in 2008: 9,598**

“Assistant teacher’s “ license granted in exceptional cases when it is impossible to find a teacher with a ordinary license.

- Requirement: Must pass the educational personnel examination ( for personality, academic ability, practical skills, physical condition) conducted by prefectural board of education.

## (4) Exceptions of License-oriented Policy

### (1) Special Part-time Lecturers

**Number of notifications in 2008: 21,359**

It is possible to employ persons who do not have a teaching license but who can serve as part-time lecturers for some subjects (such as nursing and art, for example) so that competent members of society can teach in the school.

### (2) Special Subject In-Charge System

**Total number from July 1, 2002-March 31, 2009:**

Number of those in charge of primary school subjects with junior high school license: 24,070

Number of those in charge of primary school subjects with high school license: 4,608

Number of those in charge of junior high school subjects with high school license: 780

Those who have a teaching license for junior and/or senior high school can teach the relevant subject in primary school. (For example, a teacher licensed to teach science in junior high school can teach science in primary school.)

Those who have a teaching license for senior high school can teach their relevant subject in junior high school. (For example, a teacher licensed to teach information-related subjects can teach industrial arts in junior high school.)

## Approval system for the teacher education program at universities and colleges in Japan

### 1. Overview of program approval system

In order to acquire license as a teacher, nursing teacher, and nutrition teacher for primary school, junior high school, senior high school, special support education school, and kindergarten, it is necessary to meet the basic requirements as prescribed by the Teacher License Act and obtain the prescribed credits according to the course categories, such as courses related to school subject studies and courses related to education studies.

oTeacher License Act, Schedule 1

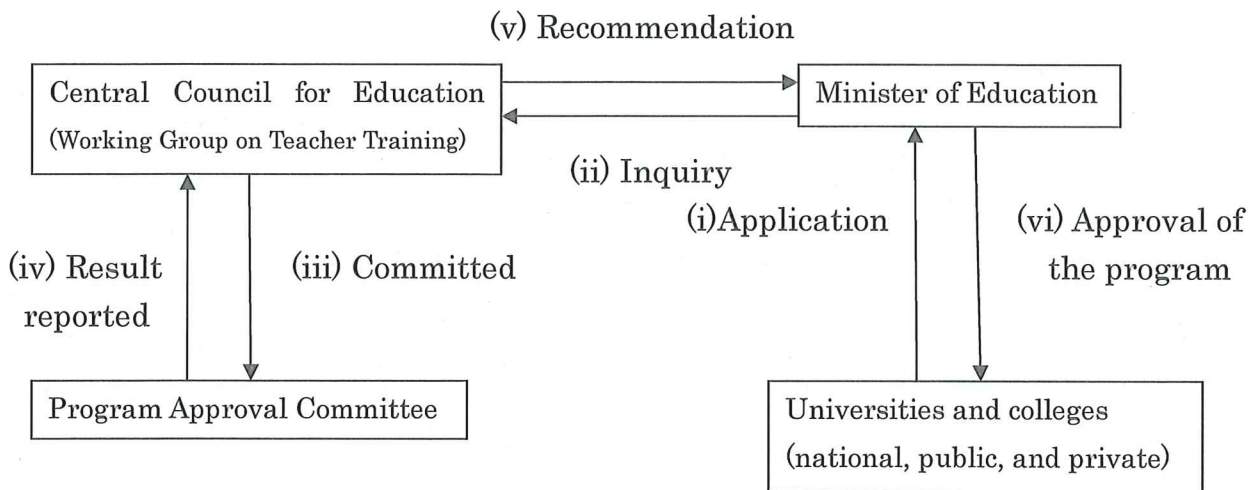
(Excerpted from the part related to the primary school teacher)

License Type	Requirement	Basic requirement	Minimum number of credits required from universities and colleges		
			Course related to school subjects	Course related to education studies	Course related to school subjects or education studies
Advanced class certificate		Master's degree	8	41	34
First class certificate		Bachelor's degree	8	41	10
Second class certificate		Finishing junior college	4	31	2

For those licenses, in principle, the credits required from universities and colleges must be obtained via the program approved by the Minister of Education as appropriate and meeting the necessary requirements for license.

The Minister of Education shall approve the program offered by universities and colleges based on the recommendation of the Central Council for Education.

The judgment of the program offered by universities and colleges shall be made by the Working Group on Teacher Training of the Elementary and Secondary Education Section of the Central Council for Education, and the Program Approval Committee judges the program in the name of the Group.



## 2. Judgment for approval of the program

### (1) Judgment criteria

The judgment by the Working Group on Teacher Training and the Program Approval Committee is made according to the Teacher License Act, Ministerial ordinance for Teacher License Act, and the Judgment Criteria for Approval of Program for Teacher Training Courses, which is determined by the Working Group on Teacher Training.

### (2) Major points of the judgment

#### (i) Relationship between courses and licenses

The relationship between the purposes, characteristics, and curriculum of the relevant program and the license to be granted shall be examined.

#### (ii) Curriculum

The curricula shall be examined as to whether they are set up for all areas of the courses stipulated by the Ministerial ordinance for Teacher License Act.

#### (iii) Faculty staff

Whether the necessary number of teachers is secured? The assessment of qualifications is implemented with a focus on full-time teachers.

#### (iv) Facility and equipment

Whether the necessary facilities, equipment, books, and materials are provided?

#### (v) School for teaching practicum

The examination shall include whether schools for the teaching practicum is secured depending on the number of students.

3. Number of program-approved universities and colleges and licenses granted by type

(1) Number of program-approved universities and colleges (as of May 1, 2009)

Category	Number of universities and colleges	Number of program-approved universities and colleges	Proportion to the total number of universities and colleges
University	733	591	80.6%
Graduate school	601	424	70.5%
Advanced course of university	66	51	77.3%
Junior college	378	273	72.2%
Advanced course of junior college	144	28	19.4%

(2) Licenses awarded by type

(Graduates of program-approved universities and colleges in 2008)

Type	Elementary school	Junior high school	Senior high school	Special support education school	Kindergarten	Nursing teacher	Nutrition teacher	Total
Advanced	1,161	4,259	5,921	288	210	54	5	11,898
First Class	14,843	43,410	60,761	2,853	10,424	2,367	1,371	136,029
Second Class	1,743	2,372	-	331	29,984	643	1,183	36,256
Total	17,747	50,041	66,682	3,472	40,618	3,064	2,559	184,183

Note: Graduates from designated teacher training institutes are included.

## The inspection of universities and colleges whose have approved program for the teacher education

### 1. Objective

In order to maintain and improve the level of the approved program (teacher training courses) for teacher license, on-site inspections of universities and colleges offering teacher training courses is implemented, if necessary.

### 2. Method

#### (1) On-site inspections

Inspectors review whether the university or college meets the requirements of the relevant laws and regulations and maintains the appropriate level of teacher training courses according to the Judgment Criteria for Approval of Program for Teacher Training Courses by paying particular attention to the following:

- (i) Curriculum and how to complete it
- (ii) Faculty structure
- (iii) Facility and equipment (including books)
- (iv) Implementation of teaching practicum
- (v) Level of acquiring license by students and finding a position as a teacher

#### (2) Inspector

On-site inspections are implemented by two or more members of the Working Group on Teacher Training, accompanied by a secretary in charge.

#### (3) Method of inspection

On-site inspections are implemented based on the questionnaire submitted in advance. Inspectors shall give appropriate instructions and advice if there are any matters that should be improved.

#### (4) Number of universities and colleges inspected

Thirty-four universities and colleges received on-site inspections in 2009.

### 3. Report writing

Inspectors and the secretary in charge write the report on results of on-site inspections. The report is released after approval by the Working Group on Teacher Training.