WDE | Professional Teaching Standards Board

Computer Science Endorsement

At the start of the 2022-23 school year districts must offer students opportunities to take Computer Science courses. Teachers must hold a Computer Science endorsement in order to give credit for Computer Science (CS).

In order to earn or add a Computer Science endorsement to your Standard Educator license you may complete one of the following:

1. Complete a PTSB approved university or college Computer Science endorsement program consisting of at least 15 semester hours. Only coursework verifying a grade of C or above will be accepted. At least five (5) semester hours must be completed within the five (5) years prior to the date of application.

   PTSB has approved the following programs at Wyoming institutions. You may need to contact the institution directly for more accurate information.

   > University of Wyoming - **CS program information**
   > Casper College - **CS program information**
   > Central Wyoming College - **CS program information**
   > Laramie County Community College - **CS program information**
   > Northern Wyoming Community College District - **CS program information**
   > Northwest College - **CS program information**
   > Western Wyoming Community College - **CS program information**

   These institutions will fill out the Institutional Recommendation form as part of your Add Endorsement application. You will not need to pass the Praxis 5652 test for Computer Science.

2. Complete at least 15 semester hours from any accredited out-of-state college or university, or a combination of colleges/universities, and pass the Praxis 5652 test for Computer Science. Only coursework verifying a grade of C or above will be accepted. At least five (5) semester hours must be completed within the five (5) years prior to the date of application. Check with PTSB prior to enrollment to confirm the program will be accepted.

3. At the district's request, an individual hired and assigned to teach Computer Science, who doesn't hold a CS endorsement, may be placed on an Exception Authorization that will allow the individual to teach CS for two years. During that time, if the individual successfully passes the Praxis 5652 test, they may add the Computer Science endorsement to their Standard License.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I teach Computer Science while I am enrolled in a program to earn the endorsement?

Yes. You may qualify for Exception Authorization Option #2. This one-year authorization may be renewed twice providing you up to three years to complete the program. You may teach Computer Science while you are completing your coursework.

Can I earn the Computer Science endorsement by completing Microcredentials?

No. At this time PTSB is only approving micro-credentials to be used for professional development/ certification renewal credits.

PTSB has partnered with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and the University of Wyoming on a number of micro-credential projects -- one project is for Computer Science. WDE's Computer Science micro-credential pilot program is scheduled to be completed by December 2022. Pilot participants are earning PD credits only at this time.

I'm an Elementary Teacher. Do I need the Computer Science endorsement?

If teaching CS in your self-contained classroom, you do not need the CS endorsement.

If you are assigned to teach Computer Science in a pull-out (or specials) setting, you will need the CS endorsement.

There are CS programs geared toward elementary teachers across the nation. Check with PTSB prior to enrollment to confirm the program will be accepted.

I'm secondary endorsed, but my district needs me to teach Computer Science at the elementary level. How can I do that?

A secondary Computer Science teacher may complete a college practicum class at the elementary level specific to CS or can complete a district structured and supervised practicum experience of at least 45 hours to add the additional grades.

I hold a Business endorsement. Can I teach Computer Science?

No. The Business endorsement does allow for teaching computer applications courses (e.g., Microsoft Office products, Google Suite, etc.) but does not cover the content of Computer Science.

I hold a Professional, Industry, Career (PIC) Permit because I have previous Computer Science industry experience. Can I teach Computer Science?

Yes. The breadth of topics you could teach may be limited to what your industry experience aligns with.

I hold an Instructional Technology endorsement. Can I teach Computer Science?

No. the table below compares the scope of the CS endorsement with that of the Instructional Technology endorsement:

Computer Science	Instructional Technology
Computer programming and software development.	Using education technology in the classroom.
How computers work – fixing and maintaining hardware.	Technology software applications in classroom instruction.
Coding and computer languages.	Facilitating learning with technology to support student achievement.
	Peer coaching and modeling technology usage in classrooms.