ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

IGNITE YOUR PASSION

School of Education

AAQEP-Accredited

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

The Educator Preparation Programs in the **School of Education at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC)** include both academic coursework and clinical experiences designed to meet the foundational requirements for teacher licensure. While our programs align with the general standards for educator preparation, each state establishes its own criteria for admission, completion, and certification. Candidates must also fulfill any additional requirements such as testing, fingerprinting, and background clearances.

STAC is accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), a nationally recognized accrediting body accepted by most states. Because licensure reciprocity and regulations vary, candidates are strongly encouraged to review the specific certification policies and procedures for the state in which they intend to teach to ensure compliance with all applicable guidelines.

Licensure Pathway by State/Territory (for STAC's program Completers)
Alabama State Department of Education: https://www.alabamaachieves.org Alabama Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development: https://education.alaska.gov/ Alaska Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Initial one-year Alaska certificate often required before advancing to Professional; basic competency exam and recommendation typically needed.
Arizona Department of Education: http://www.azed.gov/ Arizona Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Out-of-state emergency/alternative certificates are not accepted. U.S. & Arizona Constitution requirements may be assigned as allowable deficiencies.
Arkansas Department of Education: https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/ Arkansas Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Arkansas History course is required for Early Childhood/Elementary/Middle Social Studies/Secondary Social Studies before a standard license.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

IGNITE YOUR PASSION

California Department of Education: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ California Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify a professional-level New York certificate may qualify for comparable California licensure based on out-of-state preparation. Verification of at least two years of successful teaching and completion of state-specific requirements, including coursework for teaching English learners, are typically required. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Colorado Department of Education: https://www.cde.state.co.us/ Colorado Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Licenses don't 'transfer'; identical endorsement with 3 of last 7 years experience may qualify for a Professional license; otherwise evaluation is required.
Connecticut State Department of Education: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE Connecticut Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. May waive specific coursework if you completed a regionally approved prep program or have ~30 months of successful experience.
Delaware Department of Education: https://www.doe.k12.de.us Delaware Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Multiple license types (Initial/Continuing/Advanced). Certain temporary/conditional credentials are not reciprocal.
District of Columbia (D.C.) Office of the State Superintendent of Education: https://osse.dc.gov/ D.C. Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Florida Department of Education: http://www.fldoe.org/ Florida Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. NBPTS certification may provide an additional pathway; state testing and evaluation apply.
Georgia Department of Education: https://www.gadoe.org/Pages/Home.aspx Georgia Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply;

confirm on the state site. May require ethics entry assessment and approved content pedagogy assessment; experience and disability coursework may apply.
Hawaii State Department of Education: http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Pages/Home.aspx Hawaii Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Idaho State Department of Education: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/ AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Out-of-state completers with a valid certificate generally eligible; confirm assessment/timing requirements.
Illinois State Department of Education: https://www.isbe.net/ Illinois Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. No blanket reciprocity; ISBE reviews credentials and any NASDTEC alerts; content testing may be required.
Indiana Department of Education: https://www.doe.in.gov/ Indiana Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Requires content testing for each endorsement; some areas cannot be added by test-only; CPR/AED and suicide prevention training required.
Iowa Department of Education: https://educateiowa.gov/ Iowa Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Deficiencies may be permitted under provisional licensing with a plan to complete.
Kansas State Department of Education: https://www.ksde.org/ Kansas Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. 'Recency' rule: 1 year of teaching or 8 recent credits; content/pedagogy testing or accepted experience/tests.
Kentucky State Department of Education: https://education.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx Kentucky Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply;

confirm on the state site. May require Praxis content/PLT unless sufficient experience; verification of experience often needed.
Louisiana Department of Education: https://teachercerthelp.doe.louisiana.gov/hc/en-us Louisiana Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Maine Department of Education: https://www.maine.gov/doe/home Maine Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Conditional or Professional certificate depending on program/experience; transcript analysis if not approved program route.
Maryland State Department of Education: http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/default.aspx Maryland Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Recognizes approved programs; may accept out-of-state assessments or experience in lieu of MD tests.
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: http://www.doe.mass.edu/ Massachusetts Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Temporary/Provisional/Initial routes under NASDTEC; MTELs and SEI endorsement may be required based on role.
Michigan Department of Education: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/ Michigan Department of Education AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Literacy-credit minimums and other statutory requirements apply under reciprocity processes.
Minnesota Department of Education: https://education.mn.gov/mde/index.html AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Interstate reciprocity available; tiered licensure review determines requirements.
Mississippi Department of Education: https://www.mdek12.org/ Mississippi Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply;

confirm on the state site. Five-year license via reciprocity for standard out-of-state licensees meeting MS minimums.
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: https://dese.mo.gov/ Missouri Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Typically issues comparable certificate; additional coursework/tests only if no equivalent area.
Montana Office of Public Instruction: https://opi.mt.gov Montana Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. No formal reciprocity; full application review with transcripts, background check, and program verification.
Nebraska Department of Education: https://www.education.ne.gov/ Nebraska Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Often issues with allowable deficiencies (e.g., testing, human relations, special ed); conditional/temporary/provisional options.
Nevada Department of Education: http://doe.nv.gov/ Nevada Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Reciprocity for current, valid, non-provisional/non-conditional licenses.
New Hampshire Department of Education: https://www.education.nh.gov/ New Hampshire Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Recognizes state-approved programs; program recommendation valid ~3 years; full licenses reciprocal.
New Jersey Department of Education: https://www.nj.gov/education/ New Jersey Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. No blanket reciprocity; must meet CE/CEAS/Standard pathways, including exams/performance assessment.
New Mexico Public Education Department: https://web.ped.nm.gov/ New Mexico Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply;

confirm on the state site. Level 1 via reciprocity requires a degree, comparable license, approved program, test scores, and background check.
STAC is located in NY; graduates pursue NYSED certification first, then seek other states via reciprocity as applicable.
Public Schools of North Carolina: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ North Carolina Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Comparable exams and ≥3 years experience may streamline; residency license available while enrolled in an EPP.
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction: https://www.nd.gov/dpi/ North Dakota Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Other State Educator License available; testing required if not previously passed; transcript analysis if unlicensed.
Ohio Department of Education: http://education.ohio.gov/ Ohio Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Resident Educator/Professional/One-Year Out-of-State routes depending on experience; Ohio exams may be required.
Oklahoma State Department of Education: https://sde.ok.gov/ Oklahoma Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Comparable subject areas recognized; out-of-state test comparability reviewed by OEQA.
Oregon Department of Education: https://www.oregon.gov/ode/Pages/default.aspx Oregon Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Reciprocal Teaching License available if minimum degree, approved program, and background clearance are met.
Pennsylvania Department of Education: https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx Pennsylvania Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Participates in Interstate Agreement; PA GPA, student teaching, and PA testing still apply.
Rhode Island Department of Education: https://www.ride.ri.gov/ Rhode Island Teacher Certification Reciprocity

AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Expanded interstate flexibilities; out-of-state tests may be waived for listed states (NY included).
South Carolina Department of Education: https://ed.sc.gov/ South Carolina Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Reciprocity for current, standard licenses (including DODDS); confirm SC-specific requirements.
South Dakota Department of Education: https://doe.sd.gov/ South Dakota Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Reciprocity with SD Indian Studies course requirement (one-year provisional if pending).
Tennessee Department of Education: https://www.tn.gov/education.html Tennessee Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Practitioner/Professional routes for out-of-state educators; requirements depend on license level and experience.
Texas Education Agency: https://tea.texas.gov/ Texas Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Requires review of credentials; may issue a one-year non-renewable certificate, then Standard once all requirements met.
Utah State Board of Education: https://www.schools.utah.gov/ Utah Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Must show content knowledge via approved test(s) or experience; background check applies.
Vermont Agency of Education: https://education.vermont.gov/ Vermont Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. No reciprocity with NY; apply via Transcript Review for Initial license.
Virginia Department of Education: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/ Virginia Teacher Certification Reciprocity

AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: https://www.k12.wa.us/ Washington Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Recognizes any state-approved program from an accredited institution toward basic requirements.
West Virginia Department of Education: https://wvde.us/ West Virginia Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Requires valid license, approved program with student teaching, and minimum GPA; background check applies.
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: https://dpi.wi.gov/ Wisconsin Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Tier II License Based on Reciprocity (3-year renewable) with current license and year of teaching (in/out of WI).
Wyoming Department of Education: https://edu.wyoming.gov/ Wyoming Teacher Certification Reciprocity AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site. Recognizes out-of-state licenses if standards are equivalent; accepts required exams from sending state.
Puerto Rico Department of Education: https://www.de.pr.gov/ AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.
U.S. Virgin Islands: AAQEP-accredited program completers from St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) who hold/qualify for a NY certificate may be eligible for comparable licensure via reciprocity or review. Additional state-specific testing, background checks, and coursework may apply; confirm on the state site.

Last Reviewed: 09/15/26