Teacher Certification Programs

The College of Education offers the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree or a similar graduate non-degree program option for those interested in acquiring initial teacher certification in the fields of Middle Grades Education, Special Education, Secondary Education fields (biology, broad fields science, business, chemistry, economics, English, family and consumer sciences, history, geography, mathematics, physics, and political science), and a P-12 Education field (Spanish education). An undergraduate post-baccalaureate option is available for those interested in acquiring initial teacher certification in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Health and Physical Education, or Music Education. (See Undergraduate Catalog [http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/undergraduate] for more information.) A bachelor's degree is required for admission into an alternative teacher certification program and, in most cases, must be in a discipline related to the teaching field.

Master of Arts in Teaching

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program leads to initial teacher certification as well as the master's degree and is available for those in Middle Grades Education, Special Education, Secondary Education fields (biology, broad fields science, business, chemistry, economics, English, family and consumer sciences, history, geography, mathematics, physics, and political science), and a P-12 Education field (Spanish education).

For admission to the M.A.T., students must have their transcripts evaluated by Georgia Southern University's Certification Coordinator and they must meet all Teacher Education Program (TEP) admission and retention requirements, including an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher over all college course work attempted. Prospective students should contact the College of Education Graduate Academic Services Center with questions and go to http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/2016-2017/undergraduate for more information.) A bachelor’s degree is required for admission into an alternative teacher certification program and, in most cases, must be in a discipline related to the teaching field.

Evaluations will be mailed to the applicant upon completion.

Students in the M.A.T. program are assigned a faculty advisor in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Candidates in the graduate alternative certification program (M.A.T degree or non-degree) must be admitted to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) by the end of Step One, prior to enrolling in Step Two of the program of study. For non-degree candidates who seek to enter the M.A.T. program, GRE or MAT test scores must be submitted and admission granted into the program. Candidates in the graduate alternative certification program and, in most cases, must be in a discipline related to the teaching field.

Admission to M.A.T. Program

Regular

1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. Present a transcript evaluation by the College of Education Graduate Academic Services Center and completion of specified prerequisite content course work.
3. Present a cumulative 2.50 (4.0 scale) grade point average or higher on all undergraduate and graduate work combined.
4. Present a total adjusted GPA of 2.75 or higher on all teaching field course work.
5. Present an official report of scores on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the verbal, qualitative, and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
6. Submit passing scores on the GACE Program Admission Assessment exam or be exempt by acceptable SAT, ACT, or GRE scores.
7. Submit a passing score on the GACE Content Assessment exam in the area for which one is seeking certification. (Not required for the MAT in Special Education.)
8. Submit a personal statement of purpose, not to exceed 200 words, that identifies the applicant’s reasons for pursuing graduate study and how admission into the program relates to the applicant’s professional aspirations.
9. Submit a completed “Disclosure and Affirmation Form” that addresses misconduct disclosure, criminal background check, the Code of Ethics for Educators, and tort liability insurance.
10. Completed a MyPSC account with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and claim Georgia Southern University as your program provider.
11. Completed the Georgia Educator Ethics-Program Entry (350).
12. Received a Preservice Certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Provisional

Applicants may be approved for Provisional admission based on the quality of the admission material presented. Provisional students must earn grades of “B” or higher in their first nine (9) credits of course work after admission and meet any other stipulations outlined by the department to be converted to regular status.

Non-Degree Initial Teacher Certification Programs

Non-degree initial certification programs are available in all teaching fields, including Early Childhood Education, Middle Grades Education, Secondary Education fields, P-12 certification fields (Spanish, Health and Physical Education, and Music), and Special Education. The non-degree program option is designed for those who do not wish to pursue a master's degree. For middle grades education, special education, and secondary and P-12 fields, the graduate non-degree initial certification programs are similar to the M.A.T. program and students will enroll with graduate admission. For early childhood education, health and physical education, or music education, the non-degree programs mirror undergraduate teacher preparation programs and students will enroll with post-baccalaureate admission. (See Undergraduate Catalog [http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/undergraduate] for more information.) Non-degree initial certification students must be admitted for graduate study as a Non-degree Teaching/Service/Leadership student (test scores are not required). All students seeking initial teaching certification must meet all TEP admission requirements. A transcript evaluation by the Director of the Student Success Center and Certification identifies the program of study required in order to meet initial certification requirements for the desired field.

Note: Initial certification in non-teaching fields such as Counselor Education, Educational Leadership, and Instructional Technology require completion of the master's degree; School Psychology requires completion of the Education Specialist's degree. Initial certification in Counselor Education and School Psychology cannot be completed as non-degree study. To pursue certifications in either Instructional Technology or in Educational Leadership as a non-degree student, the applicant must possess a master's degree at entry and meet all other admission criteria for the Master of Education program in their chosen area.