Undergraduate Program Approval and Unit Accreditation

The College of Education offers undergraduate programs to prepare its students for work in public education. Programs are developed in collaboration with departments across the campus and with professionals in the field of education. Each program has been approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Programs - Undergraduate

Early Childhood Education - B.S.Ed. (with study concentrations in Early Childhood and Early Childhood/Special Education)

Health and Physical Education - B.S.Ed.

Music Education - B.M. (Teacher preparation program offered by the Department of Music with certification through the College of Education)

Middle Grades Education - B.S.Ed.

Special Education (Interrelated/Mild) - B.S.Ed.

B.S.Ed. Degree Requirements

General requirements for the B.S.Ed. degree include fulfillment of the Core Curriculum; completion of all junior/senior level required courses in the teaching field and professional education course work; and 6 credit hours in orientation and health and physical education. At least half of the courses required in the teaching field must be taken at this institution. Correspondence and extension credit hours may not be used to satisfy professional education and content requirements. In addition to these requirements, students pursuing a B.S.Ed. degree are required to be admitted to the Teacher Education Program.

Teacher Education Program

Undergraduate students and those seeking initial certification as non-degree/M.A.T. students must meet admission requirements for the Teacher Education Program. (See Graduate Catalog for graduate non-degree (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/graduate/education/non-degree-graduate-studies)/M.A.T. requirements (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/graduate/education/teaching-learning/teaching-mat/) Criteria for retention in the program must also be met, as well as specific program requirements and Student Teaching requirements. Candidate progress is monitored by program faculty and advisors to ensure that candidates are satisfactorily meeting program outcomes.

Admission and Retention in the Teacher Education Program

Admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) is required for those students wishing to pursue a degree in any of the education undergraduate programs or in the M.A.T. degree or related non-degree program that leads to initial teacher certification. (See Graduate Catalog for M.A.T. requirements (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/graduate/education/teaching-learning/teaching-mat/) Undergraduate students must be admitted into the Teacher Education Program as a prerequisite for enrollment in junior/senior level education courses. Students must make formal application for admission into the Teacher Education Program which includes a TEP admissions folio review process. The folio review process occurs during enrollment in the Pre-Professional Block (PPB), a set of three three-credit hour courses, which include field experiences totaling 51 clock credit hours, taken concurrently during the second semester of the sophomore year. For transfer undergraduate students, an alternative folio review process is required. During the PPB semester, undergraduate students begin using a data management system. This system supports the monitoring and assessment of students' progress through the TEP.

In order to be admitted into the Teacher Education Program (TEP), an undergraduate student must have:

1. Earned a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better on all Georgia Southern course work, as well as any transfer and transient credit hours which have been accepted by Georgia Southern. Those students who hold a B.A. or B.S. degree must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 on all coursework.
2. Earned a minimum of 50 credit hours in Core Curriculum courses including Area F Professional Education Block courses.
3. Completed Area A1, Area A2, and Area F course work (including the Pre-Professional Block) with a minimum grade of "C" and an adjusted GPA of 2.75 or better in both areas combined.
4. Completed a MyPSC account with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and claimed Georgia Southern University as the program provider.
5. Successfully completed the GACE Program Admission Assessment examination or be exempted by SAT/ACT/GRE scores.
6. Completed the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Entry (350).
7. Successfully completed the Pre-Professional Block TEP Admissions Folio Review.
8. Earned a passing evaluation on Area F field experience rubrics. Any student who does not successfully complete the field component of the Area F courses may apply through the Undergraduate Teacher Education Office to attempt this field experience again. This field experience will be repeatable as field placements are available and must be completed successfully within three attempts, including the original attempt.
9. Successfully completed a writing sample and interview, if applicable.
10. Submitted proof of liability insurance.
12. Opened an active account with the College of Education's electronic assessment and data management system.

All of the following requirements must be met for retention in the Teacher Education Program:

1. Students must maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 2.50 or better.
2. Students must maintain a total adjusted GPA of 2.75 or better on all professional education and all teaching field course work.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in all professional education and all teaching field course work.
4. Students must successfully complete all field experiences.
5. Students must not have been found in violation of the Georgia Southern Student Conduct Code. Reviews will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the seriousness of the violation and with regard to consistency.
6. Students must not have violated the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's Code of Ethics for Professional Educators. Students must abide by this Code of Ethics.
7. Students must be making satisfactory progress toward meeting program objectives. Program faculty will be responsible for monitoring student progress and providing guidance to students who may be having difficulty meeting retention requirements.
Policies and Procedures for Field Experiences, Internships and Clinical Experience - Initial Teacher Preparation

Field Experience Placement Policies

Field placements are very important to candidates in the teacher preparation program. Georgia Southern University and its Partner Schools place great importance on field experiences.

- All field experiences are coordinated between the Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education, academic programs, and Partner Schools.
- An attempt will be made to place two or more teacher candidates in a school. An exception to this clustering policy could be rendered by a program or department. This exception would be a result of specialization required of the clinical supervisor.
- One geographical area will serve Georgia Southern’s teacher candidate population. The primary area is an approximate 60 mile radius of the Georgia Southern campus. One-way travel of 60 miles from Georgia Southern to a school placement is to be expected.
- Teacher candidates rarely receive a field placement at a school site where they have had a previous field experience placement. This policy provides candidates with diversity in placements and teaching experiences.
- Teacher candidates are not placed in schools where relatives are employed, where they have been enrolled as a student, or where relatives are enrolled as students.
- Teacher candidates will not receive a field placement in a P-12 school they have attended.

Intervention Policies for Field Experiences, Student Teaching, and Internship

- Candidates are allowed a maximum of two (2) Performance Agreements (Form A) (each for different areas of difficulty) per field experience, student teaching, or internship.
- Candidates are allowed a maximum of one (1) Probation (Form B) per field experience, student teaching, or internship.
- Candidates may repeat each field experience, student teaching, or internship one (1) time.
- Withdrawing without academic penalty, withdrawing failing, or withdrawing at the recommendation of the program faculty from a field experience, student teaching, or internship will be considered one (1) attempt at that field experience.

Repeating/Extending Field Experiences, Student Teaching, and Internship

- In very rare situations, an extension of a pre-student teaching or internship field experience (maximum of two weeks) may occur at the recommendation of the Program Coordinator and upon approval of the Department Chair.
- In very rare situations, an extension of the student teaching experience or internship experience (maximum of three weeks) may occur at the recommendation of the Program Coordinator and upon approval of the Department Chair.
- When school personnel request that candidates be removed from the school for performance or professional reasons, a new field placement will rarely be identified until the following semester.

Admission to Student Teaching

Student Teaching is required in all teacher preparation programs at the initial preparation level. In order to participate in the Student Teaching program, a teacher candidate must:

1. Meet all admission and retention requirements for the Teacher Education Program.
2. Have earned an overall cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher on all college course work attempted.
3. Make application to Student Teaching no later than one semester prior to the academic year semester in which registration for the course occurs.
4. Meet admission requirements for Student Teaching no later than one semester prior to enrollment for the course.
5. Have met the College and department prerequisites for majoring in the field.
6. Have a disciplinary record clear of any actions which might be a detriment to successful performance in the classroom.
7. Possess mental, emotional, and physical health compatible with the expectations of the profession.
8. Participate in the mandatory orientation for Student Teaching.
9. Complete the professional education program and courses in the teaching field with a grade of “C” or better and an adjusted GPA of 2.75 or better.
10. Take the GACE Content Assessment appropriate to the field.
11. Purchase liability insurance.
12. Pass the Georgia Educators Ethics - Program Exit (360).

Student Teaching Placements

All student teachers are placed within a 60-mile radius of the Georgia Southern campus. School systems in this area are in the counties of Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Jenkins, Liberty, Long, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs, Vidalia City, and Wayne.

Under the auspices of the International study opportunity, student teaching exchanges within the United Kingdom may be available. Information regarding this exchange can be obtained from the Office of Undergraduate Education.

Certification

The programs offered by the College of Education at the undergraduate level are designed to prepare teachers for Level Four Induction teacher certification in the state of Georgia. For individuals who already hold a bachelor’s degree, initial teaching certification may be obtained for the fields of Early Childhood Education (grades P-5), Health and Physical Education (grades P-12), or Music Education (grades P-12) by completing program requirements at the undergraduate level. For more information on Georgia teacher certification see the Georgia Professional Standards website, http://www.gapsc.com .

All college of Education graduates who have completed an initial, advanced, add-on or endorsement program must file an application for a certificate. This will include opening a myPSC account with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GAPSC) and claiming Georgia Southern University as the program provider. Students enrolled in a Teacher Education program (undergraduate and MAT) are given an opportunity to make an application at a prescribed time. All candidates for a teaching certificate must earn passing scores on the three required Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE): content assessment, edTPA and the Educators Ethics Exit 360. The Director of
the SSC/Certification Officer will verify that all requirements, including claiming, course work and GACE requirements are complete, and program completion will be submitted to the GAPSC. Contact information for the certification process is Christina Thompson, 912-478-0698 or cjthomp@georgiasouthern.edu. http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/ssc/certification.

Post Baccalaureate and M.A.T. Teacher Certification Process and Procedures

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 who hold bachelor’s degrees in a related teaching field. (See the Graduate Catalog for M.A.T. procedures (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/graduate/education/teaching-learning/teaching-mat).) Those who hold a bachelor’s degree and are interested in Early Childhood Education, Health and Physical Education, or Music Education certification must complete program requirements at the undergraduate level. For each of these options, students must have their transcripts evaluated by Georgia Southern University’s Certification Officer and they must meet all Teacher Education Program (TEP) admission and retention requirements, including an overall GPA of 2.50 or higher on all college course work attempted.

For students pursuing the certification-only option in Early Childhood Education or Health and Physical Education, advisement is provided in the College of Education Student Success Center.

For further information please contact:

College of Education Student Success Center
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