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). Concentrations are also offered in Early Childhood and Health and Physical Education.

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). Concentrations are also offered in Early Childhood and Health and Physical Education.

For admission to the M.A.T., students must have their transcripts evaluated by Georgia Southern University’s College of Education Graduate Academic Services Center 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 for an Application for Evaluation for Initial Teacher Certification. The completed application should be submitted along with transcripts and payment of the required fee ($25.00). Allow at least two weeks for the evaluation process to be completed. 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 M.A.T. degree program before enrolling in Step Two. Any M.A.T. program application submitted by a candidate who is enrolled under non-degree status will not be considered for M.A.T. admission once the candidate enrolls in Step Two courses.

Admission to M.A.T. Program

Regular

Check with individual M.A.T. program concentrations for specific admission requirements.

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. Check with individual M.A.T. program concentrations for provisional admission guidelines.

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. 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 College of Education Graduate Academic Services Center 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.