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, history, geography, mathematics, physics, and political science), and Spanish education. Concentrations are also offered in Elementary Education and Health and Physical Education.

Master of Arts in Teaching

The College of Education offers the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree for those who hold bachelor’s degrees in a related teaching field. The M.A.T. is available in Middle Grades Education, Special Education, Elementary Education and Secondary Education fields (biology, broad fields science, business, chemistry, economics, history, geography, mathematics, physics, and political science). Health and Physical Education, and Spanish Education. Those who hold a bachelor’s degree and are interested in Elementary or Health and Physical Education, another certification option is to complete program requirements at the undergraduate level. Certification programs in Art Education are available at the undergraduate level and graduate non-degree. For Music Education, a certification program is only available at the undergraduate level.

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.

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 for information and questions coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gasc/services/transcript-evaluation. (https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gasc/services/transcript-evaluation.html)

Students in the M.A.T. program are assigned a faculty advisor in their home Department.

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 some teaching fields. Check with the program director for specific details in the certification field desired. The non-degree program option is designed for those who do not wish to pursue a master’s degree. 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 should check the individual program page.