Undergraduate Program Approval and Unit Accreditation

The College of Education offers undergraduate teacher certification and non-certification programs. Programs are developed in collaboration with departments across the university and with professionals in the field of education. Each certification program has been approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and all programs are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Programs - Undergraduate

Certification Programs:

- Art Education – B.S. Teacher preparation program offered by the Department of Art with certification through the College of Education (Armstrong Campus)
- Elementary Education - B.S.Ed. with study concentrations in:
  - Elementary Education (Armstrong and Statesboro Campuses)
  - Elementary Education/Special Education Dual Certification (Statesboro Campus)
- Health and Physical Education - B.S.Ed. (Armstrong and Statesboro Campuses)
- Music Education - B.M. Teacher preparation program offered by the Department of Music with certification through the College of Education (Armstrong and Statesboro Campuses)
- Middle Grades Education - B.S.Ed. (Statesboro Campus)
- Secondary Education - B.S.Ed. with study concentrations in:
  - Biology Education (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
  - Chemistry Education (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
  - English Education (Armstrong Campus)
  - History Education (Armstrong Campus)
  - Mathematics Education (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
  - Physics Education (Statesboro Campus)
- Special Education (Interrelated/Mild) - B.S.Ed. (Armstrong and Statesboro Campuses)

Non-Certification Programs:

- Elementary Education, Professional Studies (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
- Health and Physical Education, Professional Studies (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
- Middle Grades Education, Professional Studies (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)
- Secondary Education, Professional Studies with study concentrations in:
  - Biology Education (Statesboro and Armstrong Campuses)

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 coursework, and 4 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 teacher certification program 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/graduate/education/non-degree-graduate-studies)/M.A.T. requirements (http://catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/graduate/education/alternative-teacher-certification-programs/).) Criteria for retention in the program must also be met, as well as specific program requirements and clinical practice 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/graduate/education/alternative-teacher-certification-programs/).) Undergraduate students pursuing a certification program must be admitted into the Teacher Education Program as a prerequisite for enrollment in junior/senior level education courses. Students must apply for and be issued a Pre-Service Certificate from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. This certification serves as formal admission into the Teacher Education Program. The Pre-Service Certificate application process occurs during enrollment in the Pre-Professional Block (PPB), a set of three, three-credit hour courses, which include a field experience totaling 51 clock hours taken concurrently during the second semester of the sophomore year. Transfer undergraduate students who completed PPB courses and field experiences at another institution will complete the Pre-Service Certificate application at SOAR. 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 coursework, as well as any transfer and transient credit hours which have been accepted by Georgia Southern.
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 coursework (including the Pre-Professional Block) with a minimum grade of “C”.
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 Office of Initial Educator Preparation and Assessment 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. Submitted proof of liability insurance.
11. Maintain 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 coursework.
3. Students must earn a minimum grade of “C” in all professional education and all teaching field coursework.
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 and report any violations to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.
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.
8. Students must maintain liability insurance.
9. Students must maintain an active account with the College of Education’s electronic assessment and data management system.

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 Initial Educator Preparation and Assessment, 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. (This does not apply to candidates in an online Master of Arts in Teaching program.)
- One geographical area will serve Georgia Southern’s teacher candidate population. The primary area is approximately 70 miles from each Georgia Southern campus (this includes Teachers of Record). Candidates can expect the maximum one-way travel of 70 miles or less from Georgia Southern to a school placement. (This policy does not apply to candidates in a fully online Master of Arts in Teaching program.)
- All field placements and clinical practice assignments are identified and assigned by the program director/Coordinator. Placements are non-negotiable.
- Teacher candidates seldom 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. The exception to this policy is year-long placements during the senior year.
- 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 that have an identified disability requiring accommodations during a field experience or clinical practice must consult with the Student Accessibility Resource Center the semester prior to the field experience to discuss accommodations. All teacher candidates must successfully demonstrate their ability to meet, with or without accommodations, the standards and expectations of the teaching profession.
- Teacher candidates are limited to enrolling in a maximum of 12 semester hours during the clinical practice semester. The exception to this is when a candidate is enrolled in ESED 5235 and/or COED 3160.
- Candidates enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program can only accept employment in a Georgia school that meets the GaPSC requirements; see PSC Rule 505-3-.01, section 4 (iv).
- Candidates enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program and are hired by a school system as a Teacher of Record must be teaching in the content area of the certification they are seeking.
- Candidates enrolled in a Master of Arts in Teaching program and are hired by a school system as a Teacher of Record must be teaching full-time in the content area of the certification they are seeking during their semester of clinical practice/internship.

Intervention Policies for Field Experiences and Clinical Practice

- Candidates are allowed a maximum of two (2) Professional Support plans (A/B) (each for different areas of difficulty) per field experience or clinical practice.
- Candidates are allowed a maximum of one (1) Probationary Status per field experience or clinical practice.
- Candidates may repeat each field experience or clinical practice one (1) time.
- Withdrawing without academic penalty, withdrawing failing, or withdrawing at the recommendation of the program faculty from a field experience or clinical practice will be considered one (1) attempt at that field experience.
- When a school personnel request that candidates be removed from the school for performance or professional reasons the placement will end immediately. A new field placement will rarely be identified until the following semester.
Requirements for Admission to Clinical Practice

Clinical practice is required in all teacher preparation programs at the initial preparation level. In order to participate in clinical practice, a teacher candidate must:

1. Meet all admission requirement for the Teacher Education Program.
2. Have earned an overall cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher on all college coursework attempted.
3. Complete all professional education program courses in the teaching field with a grade of "C" or better and an adjusted GPA of 2.75 or better.
4. Prior to clinical practice complete all coursework in the program of study. Exceptions are ESED 5235 and COED 3610.
5. Meet admission requirements for clinical practice no later than one semester prior to enrollment for the course.
6. Attempt the GACE Content Assessment appropriate to the field.
7. Possess valid liability insurance.
8. Pass the Georgia Educators Ethics – Program Exit (360) Assessment.
10. Apply for clinical practice by the established deadline one academic semester prior to registration for the course.

Note: School districts may have additional requirements for student teachers/interns placed in their schools. Student teachers/interns must meet these additional requirements.

International Study Opportunity

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 Initial Educator Preparation and Assessment.

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 and are interested in Early Childhood or Health and Physical Education, another certification option is to complete program requirements at the undergraduate level. For Music Education (grades P-12), initial teaching certification is only available at the undergraduate level. For more information on Georgia teacher certification see the Georgia Professional Standards website, http://www.gapsc.com.

Upon program completion candidates will be ready to apply for certification. Please note a certificate of eligibility will be issued and once hired an induction certificate will be issued by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. Please see the Student Success Center website for further information and instructions http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/ssc/certification/

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/graduate/education/alternative-teacher-certification-programs).) Those who hold a bachelor’s degree and are interested in 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 further information please contact:

College of Education Student Success Center
Ms. Christina Thompson
P.O. Box 8029
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cjthomp@georgiasouthern.edu
(912) 478-0698
FAX: (912) 478-5514
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