

TEACHER CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS



1

Pathway One: Accelerated Fully Online Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies to Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education

This pathway is designed for students with a high school diploma and less than 30 hours of college credit. We have developed a program of study that includes **coursework to provide a solid foundation for the knowledge and skills you will need to be an effective educator.** The majority of courses in both the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Master of Arts in Teaching are taught asynchronously online to provide **maximum flexibility for you and your family.** We have designed the program to allow you to take 3 of your graduate courses as an undergraduate to **shorten your time to degree completion.** Further, you can earn a teacher salary while taking your Master's level coursework and will **earn an increased salary upon completion of your Master of Arts in Teaching.** We have also built in a way for you to take advantage of hybrid (some classes in person and some online) and fully online courses during your junior and senior years if you prefer to earn your teacher certification at the undergraduate level, earning a Bachelor's of Science in Education degree.

2

Pathway Two: Hybrid and Online Education Coursework with Alternative Field Placements

This pathway is designed for students who have an **Associate's degree or equivalent**, and who are ready to start upper division education courses at the undergraduate level. Along with current online and **summer courses that do not interfere with your work schedule**, we have developed hybrid courses that can be taken in person and/or online during the semester. The hybrid courses will require you to travel to one of our three campuses. The **assignments and field experiences in these courses will be aligned with the work you already do as a paraprofessional in your school system.** Please note that while we will work closely with your employing school system to align Georgia Southern College of Education expectations and your work obligations, we can not guarantee all possibilities will be available to you. **Consistent communication with our advising team and your Human Resources department will be essential.**

3

Pathway Three: Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary, Special Education, Middle Grades or Secondary

This pathway is designed for those educators who have a **Bachelor's degree in a non-educational field.** If you have a 2.5 GPA or above, you will be eligible to apply for admittance to one of our MAT programs. It is possible for you to **work as a full time teacher of record, and earn a teacher salary**, while you are completing your coursework. Please note that there are **additional content requirements for Special Education, Middle Grades, and Secondary Education.**

START

- ⌚Based on school system approval
- 💰Salaries based on Georgia state averages

Pathway 1

I have a high school diploma or less than 30 college credits.

Apply to

Georgia Southern
(Current GPA and test score requirements)

STEP 1-CORE

65 online core units

STEP 2

30 online core units and education courses

Apply to Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education

STEP 3

29 Units
College of Education courses and Master of Arts in Teaching courses

GRADUATE

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies

STEP 4

Master of Arts in Teaching courses. ⌚Work as a teacher of record.

GRADUATE

Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education
Typical Salary 💰\$42,600 per year

Pathway 2

I have an associate's degree or 30+ college credits.

Apply as a Transfer Student

Meet with advisors to see which credits transfer.
Preview Here!

- GPA of 2.5
- On target for College of Education admission requirements

Take any needed **core courses**.

STEP 1

Take Pre-Professional block courses and apply to College of Education

STEP 2

Enroll in hybrid and online College of Education courses.

Field experience requirements embedded into work responsibilities

STEP 3

- Possible Paid Residency ⌚\$19,000 per year
- ⌚Work as a teacher of record
- Hybrid/online College of Education courses

GRADUATE

Bachelor of Science in Education
Typical Salary 💰\$35,216 per year

Pathway 3

I have a bachelor's degree.

Read Through **Checklist**

Apply for Master of Arts in Teaching program

- GPA must be 2.5 or above
- Content Requirement for Middle Grades/Secondary/Special Education

Summer

Year 1

⌚Work as a teacher of record.

Summer

Year 2

⌚Work as a teacher of record.

GRADUATE

Master of Arts in Teaching
Typical Salary 💰\$42,600 per year

INTERESTED IN A TEACHER CERTIFICATION PATHWAY?

Pathway 1: If you are beginning your time at Georgia Southern as a freshman (0-29 college credits):

- Complete an application
 - High school GPA of 3.2 or higher (no SAT or ACT scores needed)
 - High school GPA below 3.2, SAT or ACT scores required
- Work with your academic advisor
 - Declare Education as your major and complete core courses online through e-core and then enroll in hybrid College of Education courses (see if your school system is a partner in this program)

OR

- Begin online coursework in the Bachelor's of Interdisciplinary Studies to MAT in Special Education program
- Declare Education as your major
- Communicate with your school system so we can collaborate on necessary supports

Pathway 2: If you have an Associate's degree or 30+ college credits:

- Apply as a Transfer student
 - We will provide official transcript evaluations upon submission of your application, and you can get a preview of which courses will transfer using this course transfer equivalency resource
- Ensure that you have met the 2.5 GPA requirement in your core or Associate's that is needed for admission to the College of Education. If you do not currently meet the GPA requirements, this tool can help you determine what is needed. Work with your academic advisor to identify solutions
- Declare Elementary Education as your major and work with your school system to identify supports and field experience options

Pathway 3: If you have a Bachelor's degree and need teacher certification:

- Apply for one of our Master of Arts in Teaching programs
 - Read through the application checklist to ensure you have met GPA and content course requirements
 - Communicate with your academic advisor and school system to identify Teacher of Record opportunities



I AM INTERESTED - WHAT WILL IT COST?

UNDERGRADUATE

Cost Per Course :
Approximately \$650.00
per course

GRADUATE

Cost Per Course :
Approximately \$3,600
per semester

NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

Contact our Financial Aid Office:

We have an amazing team of counselors that can help you identify financial support.

<https://em.georgiasouthern.edu/finaid/>

Undergraduate College of Education Scholarships:

<https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/students/undergraduate-student-scholarships/>

Graduate College of Education Scholarships:

<https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/students/scholarships/>

Teach Grant:

<https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/advisement/teach-grant/>

This grant provides up to \$4,000 per year for students who plan to teach in high needs subject areas in schools that serve low-income students. The TEACH Grant requires a 3.25 cumulative GPA and is available for students beginning their junior year. It is also available for MAT students. High needs areas for 2022-23 are:

- Elementary Education
- Special Education
- Middle Grades w/content area(s) in math, science, social science or language arts
- Secondary Education in math, science, history, English or broad-field science

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

We are excited to offer multiple pathways for paraprofessionals to earn their teacher certification. We recognize that you are dedicated to the success of PK-12 students, and want to support people like you to enhance the educational experiences of students in our region. We also recognize that you have varied educational backgrounds. We have designed these pathways so that we can maximize the experiences you bring and support you in the ways that will facilitate your success.

Read through the pathway options and next steps in this document. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Alisa Leckie, Assistant Dean for Partnerships and Outreach at Georgia Southern University.