

Certification Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) is the licensing agency for educators in Georgia. Their website contains detailed information on licensure in the State of Georgia and can be accessed at gapsc.com. In an attempt to provide additional information, we have compiled answers to a few of the most commonly asked questions concerning certification in Georgia:

I don't have a degree in education, but I think I want to be a teacher. What do I need to do?

If you currently hold a bachelor's degree from a college or university approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and you are hired by a school district, you may be eligible for a 3-year certificate that will allow you to teach while completing the requirements for a full teaching certificate. Visit the [GaPSC Prospective Educator](#) webpage for details.

How do I know which GACE exam to take?

Taking the appropriate GACE exam is essential to determining highly-qualified status. The exam you take is directly related to area or field in which you wish to teach. Click on the following [GACE](#) link to research the available tests, test sites and test dates.

Are Professional Learning Units (PLUs) required in order to renew my teaching certificate?

PLUs, which track seat time, are no longer used in Georgia for educator certification renewal. Based on a new rule adopted by the GaPSC on July 1, 2017, educators working in schools and school districts will engage in job-embedded learning with their colleagues supported by workshops when needed. Principals and superintendents will sign assurance forms attesting their educators have been engaged in continuous learning. Professional learning will be about working on the work rather than collecting PLUs. This new process is a step toward professionalizing the work of educators.

Will my teacher pay increase once I've completed an advanced degree?

Eligible Georgia educators may upgrade the level of their certificates by completing qualifying advanced degree programs. The following types of certificates may be upgraded:

- **Renewable, professional certificates:** Includes Standard Professional, Performance-Based Professional, Advanced Professional, & Lead Professional.
- **Induction Pathway 1, 2, or 3 certificates.**

Permits and Induction Pathway 4 certificates may not be upgraded.

In order for the advanced degree to be recognized for a certificate upgrade, it must be earned at an institution and in a field that meets the requirements set forth by the GaPSC. Click the following link to research specific details and take advantage of the GaPSC Upgrade Advisor: [Upgrade Your Certificate](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE: We strongly recommend using the [GaPSC Certificate Upgrade Advisor](#) prior to enrolling in any advanced degree program.