



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)
TEEMS PROGRAMS IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF MIDDLE-SECONDARY EDUCATION &
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
Georgia State University- College of Education

NOTE: These questions and answers are for Georgia State University's TEEMS programs in The Department of Middle-Secondary Education & Instructional Technology. If you have questions about other institutions and their requirements for teacher education, please call each institution directly. We are unable to answer ANY question about requirements at other institutions.

What does "TEEMS" mean?

TEEMS is an acronym for "Teacher Education in English, ESOL, Mathematics, Middle Childhood, Social Studies, and Science." TEEMS is a nontraditional approach to teacher education at the graduate level and is based on current research as well as years of experience with initial teacher preparation. The program's underlying framework is constructivism, which suggests that human beings construct knowledge through acting on their environment and interacting with other humans. TEEMS is a cohort program that encourages and supports planning, teaching, and reflection with colleagues who are committed to excellence in teaching.

What does this program offer that others in the state do not, and why should I choose this program over others?

GSU's TEEMS programs have established an excellent reputation across the metro-Atlanta area because of our commitment to prepare excellent teachers for urban classrooms. This program provides a master's degree in education and initial teaching certification in as few as four semesters (provided you come in with the prerequisite course-work)—this is a very desirable aspect of our program! In addition, we teach with the most current and best practices for optimal learning in classrooms. Further, mentor teachers across the metro-Atlanta area remark that we have very well-prepared students and they continue to want to work with us in practicum experiences. When students leave our program, they are prepared in many aspects of teaching to work with diverse students in urban and suburban areas. Our graduates are quickly hired in metro area school systems.

Admission into the TEEMS Program

How can I apply to this program?

All aspects of the application process must be completed online. Students can contact the Office of Academic Assistance in the College of Education at Georgia State University for more information: 404-413-8000 or online at <http://education.gsu.edu/oa/1115.html>.

Do I need teaching experience in order to apply to this program?

No. Many students are concerned that they have no teaching experience before they apply to this program. That is exactly what this program offers: knowledge in the field of education that will help you become more successful when working with students. However, those with provisional certification may also apply.

When can students be admitted into TEEMS?

Students may be admitted in any semester (summer, fall, and spring). However, all program cohorts begin in the summer session. Deadlines for submission of application materials: February 1 for summer and fall; October 1 for spring

What does “cohort” mean?

A cohort is a group of students who take the same group of foundation and methods courses and participate in practicum and student teaching at the same time.

How difficult is it to get into a TEEMS program, and how many students are admitted into the program?

This program is highly desirable across the state of Georgia and is very competitive. You should ensure that *all* application materials (including transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) are submitted on time and are completed in a professional manner (typed, clearly written, etc.). A maximum of 30 students are accepted for each cohort.

Do I have to have a degree in a related content area to qualify as a candidate for TEEMS?

Each program sets the criteria for background requirements. For our ESOL (K-12) and secondary (6-12) programs, you must have a degree in the related content field or an equivalent number of hours of coursework. The Middle Level Education programs do not require a degree in the content fields for admission; however, students who do not have a degree in the related fields can expect to spend additional semesters taking coursework in specific content areas. We accept degrees from most accredited colleges and universities.

What is the application and admission process?

The first step in the process is to submit your online application to the Office of Academic Assistance (OAA) in the College of Education <http://education.gsu.edu/oa/1115.html> . Once OAA receives your completed application, they will check it to be sure it is complete, then forward it to the faculty in the appropriate program in MSIT. The faculty then review applications and invite eligible prospective candidates for an interview in the department (typically about 7-8 weeks after the deadline for applications). Shortly after the interview, you should receive notification of the faculty’s recommendation.

What are the requirements to be accepted into TEEMS?

Minimum requirements include the following: (a) undergraduate degree from accredited college or university (Some programs require the degree to be in a specific content area.), (b) score of 800 or higher on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), (c) GPA of 2.5 or higher; (d) three letters of recommendation (personal, work-related, or university/college faculty); (e) statement of career goals and reasons why you want to be a teacher. We also recommend that you take the GACE test of basic skills and include your scores in your application. Although the GACE test of basic skills is not required for admission, it is required for certification unless you meet criteria for exemption. See page 5 for more information on the GACE.

What if I don’t meet the general requirements necessary for entry into the graduate program in the College of Education?

If your application is denied by the College of Education (COE), you can write a letter of appeal describing reasons why you fell short in the area(s) required by the college. Your letter of appeal will be forwarded to the MSIT program faculty, who will make the final decision on acceptance or denial.

How do I get information on taking the GRE exam?

Students who wish to take the GRE should contact the Educational Testing Service by visiting their website: <http://www.gre.org>. Registration for the GRE can be completed online.

If I have a provisional teaching license, are the application procedures different?

No. All candidates for admission must complete the application process as described above. Include a copy of your provisional license in your application.

If I have a provisional teaching license, can I enroll as a full-time student in the TEEMS program?

Yes. The advantage for provisionally-licensed teachers is that your current teaching position becomes your practicum site. Program coursework (except in summer) is offered at or after 4:30 p.m. so you can attend program classes in the evenings.

If I plan to complete my undergraduate degree in the spring semester and I wish to enroll in graduate school, can I still apply to the TEEMS program that will start in the summer?

Yes. In your letter of application, please make it clear that you are in your last semester of undergraduate coursework and will graduate with an undergraduate degree in a related content field. If you are accepted into the program, and you present faculty with your current transcripts in early May showing that you have your undergraduate degree, you may begin in June with the other accepted candidates.

If I graduate in the Maymester of the summer I wish to enroll, can I still apply to the TEEMS program which will start in the summer?

No. You must wait until the following summer to begin your program work. The Maymester at Georgia State University is considered summer school, and your undergraduate degree will not be conferred until August.

Can I transfer courses into this program?

With approval of program faculty, you may be allowed to transfer graduate level coursework from an accredited institution. However, you must complete at least 27 graduate credit hours from Georgia State University to be eligible for the M.A.T degree.

About the TEEMS Program

How do I register for classes?

Georgia State University provides online registration through GoSolar (Georgia State Online Access to Records). When you log into GoSolar, you can also check the status of your financial aid application and awards, update your personal records, pay fees and register for parking. You can find the schedule information, including the five-digit computer numbers for classes at www.gosolar.gsu.edu/webforstudent.htm.

How can I find out what my access code is for registering for classes?

If you have forgotten your access code, you may obtain it by going to the Office of the Registrar at 227 Sparks Hall and presenting your student ID card.

How do I find the GSU Registrar's office?

The Registrar's office is located at 227 Sparks Hall. For more information, you may call 404-413-2600 or visit the website at <http://www.gsu.edu/es/registration.html> .

How do I find my GSU student ID number?

To find out find your GSU student ID number, go to: <https://webdb.gsu.edu/lookup/>

What about parking at Georgia State University?

For information on parking, go to: <http://www.gsu.edu/auxiliary/parking.html>

Where can I locate a calendar of events?

Academic calendars for *Georgia State University* may be accessed online:

[http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/24/2009&view=DateT
ime](http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/24/2009&view=DateT
ime)

For calendar events in the *College of Education*, go to

[http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/30/2009&display=Mont
h&display=Month&view=Category](http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/30/2009&display=Mont
h&display=Month&view=Category)

For calendar events in the department of *Middle-Secondary Education & Instructional Technology*, go to

[http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/30/2009&display=Mont
h&display=Month&view=Category](http://calendar.gsu.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=6/1/2009&todate=6/30/2009&display=Mont
h&display=Month&view=Category)

What are my options if the class I need is full?

You may plan to take the class the next semester that it is offered, or you may request permission to be added to the class directly from the instructor.

Is it possible to work at an outside job while doing this program?

We strongly advise that you do not work during this program. The program is extraordinarily time-consuming and intensive. The practicum courses require you to be in the school for times ranging from 4 - 8 hours a day. The projects that are required in each course are demanding and cannot be completed in short periods of time. Since this is a cohort program, working collaboratively with other students is an essential part of the coursework. Your availability to work with your colleagues will be essential, and outside work often interferes.

What if I don't want a master's degree? Can I still earn only teaching certification in this program?

Yes. However, you must meet the general requirements for entry into the graduate school, and you must be fully admitted to the TEEMS program. If you choose not to pursue the master's degree, you can take only the coursework necessary to complete certification.

Do I have an advisor in this program?

Once you are admitted to this program, you will be assigned a faculty member who will be your primary advisor. We recommend that you make an appointment with your advisor early, especially if

you have individual concerns or wish to have hours transferred into the program. You will have at least one other faculty member who can help you out at any time and with any question that you have.

What are the field experiences like?

The field experiences vary among the programs. For some of the TEEMS programs (e.g., MCE LA/SS and secondary English), students participate in a year-long placement at a single school. For other programs, students complete the fall practicum in one school and student teaching in another. Your presence in the school will vary between 4 and 8 hours each school day, and you will follow your school's calendar for holidays and vacation times. During practicum, you will learn about the day-to-day experiences of planning and teaching in classrooms. During student teaching (which lasts approximately 15 weeks), you will function as "the teacher" with guidance from your mentor teacher at the school. Your student teaching experiences are designed to resemble the actual responsibilities that teaching requires. Overall, you will spend approximately 900 hours in your field experience settings.

Do I make my own student teaching / practicum placements, and how far might I have to travel to my practicum site?

When you become a TEEMS member, you will be assigned to a placement at a school. Student preferences are considered but cannot be guaranteed. Because TEEMS places teachers all across the metro-Atlanta area, you should be prepared to travel up to 90 minutes each way. Sometimes travel can be up to 50 miles each way, depending on where you live. However, we do make every effort to make these placements as convenient for you as we possibly can.

What do I do if my home address, telephone number and/or e-mail addresses change?

Georgia State University provides online registration through GoSolar (Georgia State Online Access to Records). When you log into GoSolar, you can also check the status of your financial aid application and awards, update your personal records, pay fees and register for parking. Access the GoSolar website at <https://www.gosolar.gsu.edu/webforstudent.htm>.

Teacher Certification

What do I need to be certified to be a teacher in the state of Georgia?

You must successfully complete an initial certification program (including your program portfolio), pass (or exempt) the GACE test of basic skills¹, and the GACE content exams required for your field(s). (There is a GACE test for each content area). For more information, go to <http://www.gapsc.com/>. If you want to know more about which tests you need to take for the GACE and other tests that may be required for other states, please access <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/>.

Is certification in Georgia accepted in other states?

To find out certification across the states, please consult <http://www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html> for individual requirements.

¹ Students may exempt the GACE Test of Basic Skills if they meet any of the following criteria: (1) Scored 1000 or higher on SAT, (2) scored 43 or higher on the ACT, (3) scored 1030 or higher on GRE, (4) hold a master's degree or above from a PSC-accepted accredited institution.

Who certifies me as a teacher?

The Professional Standards Commission is the certifying body in the state of Georgia. If you have questions about certification, please consult their website <http://www.gapsc.com/>. Within the College of Education, you may also direct questions to Esha Mctizic at jmctizic@gsu.edu.

What grades will I be certified to teach when I receive this degree?

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages): grades K-12
Middle Childhood Education/Language Arts and Social Studies: grades 4-8
Middle Childhood Education/Math and Science: grades 4-8
English: grades 6-12
Math: grades 6-12
Science: grades 6-12
Social Studies: grades 6-12

What are some of the major projects that I will be asked to complete?

You will be expected to plan and write daily as well as you create unit plans, teach lessons, integrate technology into your planning and teaching, and complete an electronic portfolio (e-portfolio) by the end of the program. During your practicum semester (fall), you will complete a [Teacher Work Sample](#).

What is the exit requirement for this program?

The exit requirement for the master's degree and for certification is the e-portfolio. Throughout the program, you will reflect on your growth as a teacher and will collect artifacts that demonstrate your learning as well as your students' learning. The e-portfolio demonstrates your growth as a graduate student in the TEEMS program. **Note:** All students in TEEMS programs must complete the e-portfolio, not just those in the master's degree track. You will be asked to make a one-time purchase of a subscription to [LiveText](#) online portfolio system at the beginning of your program.

Is coursework at the graduate level challenging?

Coursework at the graduate level is very challenging and time-consuming. This is a graduate program and, as such, the coursework and subsequent workload (i.e., reading, papers, projects, and assignments, etc.) are much more intense than undergraduate work. You will be expected to be prepared to discuss all assignments, have assignments completed on time, and meet all standards outlined in course syllabi and program documents. Readings are assigned in courses to help you become the best teacher you can be, so skirting assignments is not an option. Many instructors include participation in the overall grade that you earn, so the key to success in a graduate program is to be prepared. Plan to spend approximately 3 hours per every hour in class (nine hours per class per week). Papers are extensive and require lots of research, synthesis and original thought. A great deal of time and thought is necessary to complete assignments and papers.

What sort of technology experiences should I have to be successful in this program?

To be successful in this program, all students will be expected to integrate technology into their learning, teaching, reflection and communication. You will participate in several technology workshops throughout the program which are designed to support and extend what you already know. Additionally, you are required to take IT 3210 or IT 7360, Technology for Educators, as pre- or co-requisites to become certified. The IT course prepares teachers to evaluate, select, and integrate technology in the classroom. It goes beyond the basic use of computer programs as it focuses on a systematic process for using new technologies to enhance learning. TEEMS students learn how to insert and scan documents into word processing papers, digitize video and audio, develop PowerPoint

presentations, blog, work with Windows Movie Maker and Publisher programs, develop websites, create electronic portfolios, create websites for their practicum site classes, and communicate on WebCT.

At what point do I apply for graduation?

You must complete a formal application for graduation at the GSU Graduation Office (231 Sparks Hall) *at least two semesters before you are due to graduate*. That is, for summer (or August) graduation, you should apply during the previous fall semester. Deadlines for applying for graduation are clearly posted online on the GSU Registrar's website: <http://www.gsu.edu/es/graduation.html>.

Financing Your Degree

Since I'm financing my own education, what are my options for financial aid?

There are a number of sources for you to consult about financial aid. Our program does not directly offer any financial aid. However, you may find out information for other sources of aid by consulting the GSU Financial Aid website (http://www.gsu.edu/es/financial_aid.html) or by contacting the financial aid department at GSU (financialaid@langate.gsu.edu or 404-413-2400). ***Information on tuition and fees:*** http://www.gsu.edu/tuition_fees.html .

Further Information

For further information about TEEMS programs, contact Ms. Corliss Wilson at TEEMS@gsu.edu or (404) 413-8392.

For further information about student teaching placements, contact Dr. Janet Burns at jburns@gsu.edu or (404) 413-8417.