

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

NOTE: These questions and answers are for **Georgia State University's TEEMS program in Middle Level Education: Language Arts & Social Studies**. 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 IS THE TEEMS MLE PROGRAM FOR LANGUAGE ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES?

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 alternative teacher preparation. One of the outcomes of our experience with alternative preparation programs was to rethink the nature of teacher education and to begin to visualize and plan for new approaches. The program's underlying framework is socio-constructivism, which suggests that human beings construct knowledge through acting on their environment and interacting with other humans. This program is called the TEEMS Program (Teacher Education in English, ESOL, Mathematics, Middle Level, Social Studies, and Science). TEEMS is a cohort program that encourages and supports planning, teaching, and reflection with colleagues who are committed to excellence in middle grades Language Arts & Social Studies education.

TEEMS students participate in 45 hours of graduate coursework. The program includes a year long practicum placement in a middle school. If you are already employed with a provisional certificate, your placement will be your school.

ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM

- 1. *How can I apply to this program?*** All information regarding application materials may be found online at the College of Education Office of Academic Assistance site: <http://education.gsu.edu/oaa/prospective.htm>. All aspects of the application process must now be completed online via the EMBARK system. Students may also wish to contact the Office of Academic Assistance in the College of Education at Georgia State University for more information: 404-413-8000.
- 2. *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's exactly what this program offers: knowledge in the field of education that will help you become more successful when working with students in grades 4-8.
- 3. *How difficult is it to get into the TEEMS MLE LA/Social Studies education 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 25 students are accepted for each cohort.
- 4. *What does this program offer that others in the state do not, and why should I choose this program over others?*** GSU's TEEMS MLE Language Arts/Social Studies program has 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 Language Arts and Social Studies education and initial teaching certification generally within four semesters (length of program is dependent upon your previous college coursework and prerequisites)—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.

5. ***When do you admit students into this program?*** We admit students into the program each semester (summer, fall, and spring). You may enter during fall or spring to take the required background prerequisites you need, but the program cohort starts in the summer session. The deadline for submission of all application materials is **February 1st for Summer and Fall semesters and October 1st for Spring semester.**
 6. ***What is the application and admission process?*** We evaluate applications each semester. In order to begin the program in summer, your completed application must be received in the Office of Academic Assistance in the College of Education by February 1. Once MLE faculty receive your approved admission application from the Office of Academic Assistance (typically, late March), they evaluate it thoroughly. They then invite prospective candidates for an extensive interview process to evaluate your career goals for entering the teaching field. Within two to three weeks of the interview, you will receive notification of the faculty's recommendation.
- Acceptance requirements: you must have an undergraduate degree (preferably in English or in a Social Studies content area), a GPA of 2.5 or higher; three letters of recommendation (personal, work-related, or university/college faculty); a statement of career goals and reasons why you want to be a middle grades Language Arts / Social Studies teacher; a minimum combined Verbal and Quantitative GRE score of 800; and an interview with program faculty.
7. ***If I have a degree in English or in a Social Studies content area (e.g., history, geography, economics, political science, etc) from an accredited institution, do I qualify as a candidate for TEEMS?*** Yes. We accept degrees from most major colleges and universities. If you need additional coursework in English/Language Arts or Social Studies, we will let you know after we have examined your transcripts.
 8. ***If I have a degree in a different content area, what courses are necessary to complete the Middle Grades Language Arts & Social Studies Master of Teaching degree as a certified teacher?*** If you do not have a degree in either English or Social Studies, you may still be considered as an applicant for this program. You would enter the program as a graduate student to take the necessary prerequisites in both areas for as many semesters as necessary (each student is evaluated individually) prior to joining the program cohort in summer.
 9. ***What if I don't meet the general requirements necessary for entry into the graduate program in the College of Education?*** You can write a letter of appeal describing reasons why you fell short in the area(s) required by the College of Education (COE). The COE appeals committee evaluates these letters on the first Friday of each month. They make the final decision regarding entrance into the graduate school. Included in this appeal should be any supporting documents that demonstrate your ability to do coursework at the graduate level.
 10. ***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.

11. ***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.
12. ***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. Coursework (except in summer) necessary to complete this program is offered at or after 4:30 p.m. so you can attend program classes in the evenings.
13. ***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 which 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 English or in one of the Social Studies in spring. 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.
14. ***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 work. The Maymester at Georgia State University is considered summer school, and your undergraduate degree will not be conferred until August.

ABOUT THE TEEMS MLE LA/SS EDUCATION PROGRAM

15. ***How long does it take to complete this program?*** Most students earn both a Master's degree and initial teaching certification within four semesters (summer, fall, spring, and summer). If your undergraduate degree is in an area other than English or one of the Social Studies, however, it will take longer. The exact length of time will depend upon your previous coursework in these areas.
16. ***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 (CRN) at: www.gosolar.gsu.edu/webforstudent.htm. For complete directions for registering online go to: http://www.gsu.edu/es/registration_guide.html.
17. ***How do I obtain my GSU student ID card?*** To find out how to obtain your GSU Panther card, go to: <http://www.gsu.edu/%7Ewwwaux/panthercard/index.htm>.
18. ***What about parking at Georgia State University?*** For information on parking, go to: <http://www.gsu.edu/%7Ewwwaux/parking/students.htm>.
19. ***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 Registrar at 227 Sparks Hall and presenting your student ID card (Panther Card).
20. ***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>

- 21. *Where can I locate a GSU academic calendar that includes a schedule for registration as well as starting/ending dates for each semester and final exam dates for each term?*** Academic calendars for Georgia State University may be accessed online: http://www.gsu.edu/academic_calendar.html
- 22. *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 take the class directly from the acting professor of the class.
- 23. *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 year-long practicum requires you to be in the school for times ranging from 5 - 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 being available to work with your colleagues will be essential, and outside work often interferes.
- 24. *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 MLE Language Arts/Social Studies education program. If you choose not to pursue the Master's degree, you can take only the coursework necessary to complete certification. You must also complete the exit portfolio in order to obtain certification. This will take approximately three semesters
- 25. *What is the exit requirement to complete certification?*** The exit requirement for certification is the e-portfolio which all students must complete. 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. You will be asked to make a one-time purchase of a subscription to LiveText online portfolio system at the beginning of your program.
- 26. *Do I have an advisor in this program?*** Once you are admitted to this program, you will be assigned an individual 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 should visit your advisor each semester that you are in the program to ensure your progress through 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. Once you are in our program, you are well taken care of in terms of advisement in the areas of coursework, practicum experiences, and program requirements.
- 27. *What are the practicum experiences like?*** You will participate in a year-long practicum in a middle school, beginning during the teachers' pre-planning week in August. Your presence in the school will vary between 5 and 8 hours each school day and you will follow your school's calendar for holidays and vacation times. During this practicum, you will learn about the day-to-day workings of a middle school teacher and planning/teaching in middle school Language Arts and Social Studies classrooms at all grade levels. You will also participate in a student teaching experience for 15 weeks, all day, five days a week. During this part of the practicum, you will function as "the teacher" with guidance from your mentor teacher at the school. This practicum is designed to more closely resemble the actual responsibilities that teaching requires. Additionally, during your coursework/fieldwork, you will participate in a required elementary experience in grades 4 and 5 as you will be certified to teach grades 4-8.

- 28. *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 a practicum site. Because TEEMS places teachers all across the metro-Atlanta area, be prepared to travel up to 90 minutes each way to a practicum site. 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.
- 29. *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

- 30. *What do I need to be certified to be a teacher in the state of Georgia?*** You must successfully complete an initial certification program and pass the GACE exams for Basic Skills, Middle Grades Language Arts, and Middle Grades Social Studies teachers (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/>.
- 31. *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/>.
- 32. *What grades will I be certified to teach when I receive this degree?*** You will be certified to teach grades 4-8 in Language Arts and Social Studies.
- 33. *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.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN MLE LANGUAGE ARTS & SOCIAL STUDIES

- 34. *How does earning the Master's degree differ from earning initial certification?*** The Master of Arts in Teaching degree (MAT) requires that you complete an additional six courses at the graduate level in both English/Language Arts and Social Studies in the College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences.
- 35. *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 create unit plans, teach lessons, integrate technology into your planning and teaching. You will be asked to reflect regularly upon your experiences in the classroom and participate in observation conferences with your University supervisor.
- 36. *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 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.

37. *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>.

38. *Can I obtain an endorsement in Reading or English as a Second Language?* We offer graduate courses in literacy which apply to Georgia's Reading Endorsement for classroom teachers. These courses focus on three areas (a) understanding readers and the reading process, (b) linking assessment and instruction, and (c) using instructional strategies in specific content areas. Successful completion of the three courses and the portfolio qualifies a person for the bachelor's, master's, or specialist level endorsement, depending on the current level of certification. This endorsement qualifies an individual to be considered 'in field' in reading at the level of the base certificate. Teachers pursuing the reading endorsement may be enrolled as non-degree students or may be enrolled in specific programs such as MLE TEEMS LA/SS. (See <http://education.gsu.edu/literacyclinic/4201.html> for details.)

We also offer graduate courses in bilingual/English as a second language to give teachers additional training to work with non-English-speaking or limited-English-speaking students at the early childhood, middle childhood, and secondary school levels. Successful completion of the ESOL endorsement coursework and completion of a portfolio demonstrating competencies established for ESOL teachers by TESOL qualifies a person for the bachelor's, master's, or specialist level endorsement, depending upon the student's current level of certification. The program presupposes certification at least at the bachelor's level. (See <http://msit.gsu.edu/1479.html> for details.)

FINANCIAL AID

39. *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 404-413-2400).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, contact the TEEMS Middle Level Education Language Arts/Social Studies program faculty:

Dr. Caroline Sullivan, Program Coordinator – ccsullivan@gsu.edu
Dr. Mary Ariail – mariaail@gsu.edu
Dr. Nancy Lee Daily – ndaily@gsu.edu
Dr. Gladys Yarbrough - gyarbrough@gsu.edu

COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS for MLE TEEMS LA/SS

Children/Adolescent Literature

- ENG 3910 Traditions of Children's Literature (usually taught Fall semester, odd years)
 - Note: For information on directed reading for graduate credit, see advisor
- EDLA 3200 Topics in Middle Grade Language Arts
- EDLA 7150 Children's and Adolescents' Literature

Literature/Folklore

- ENGL 3040 Introduction to Literary Studies (replaces ENGL 2140)
- ENGL 3290 English Fiction (prerequisite ENGL 2120, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3850 American Poetry (prerequisite: ENGL 2130 with grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3860 American Drama (prerequisite: ENGL 2130 with grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3870 American Fiction (prerequisite ENGL 2130, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3890 Contemporary Ethnic American Literature (prerequisite: ENGL 2120 or 2130 with grade of C or higher.
- ENGL 3910 Children's and Young Adults' Literature (prerequisite ENGL 2120, 2130, or 2140/3040, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3920 Southern Literature (prerequisite: ENGL 2120, 2130, 2140/3040 with grade of C or higher.
- ENGL 3950 African-American Literature (prerequisite ENGL 2130 with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3960 African-American Literature by Women (prerequisite ENGL 2130 with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3970 Caribbean Literature (prerequisite ENGL 2120, 2130, or 2140, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 4130 Shakespeare, Earlier Works (prerequisite: ENGL 2120 with grade of C or higher.
- ENGL 4140 Shakespeare, Later Works (prerequisite: ENGL 2120 with grade of C or higher.
- ENGL 8360 Shakespeare, Earlier Works (taught spring)
- ENGL 8370 Shakespeare, Later Works (taught fall)
- ENGL 8900 Topics course; content varies
- FOLK 3000 American Folklore
- FOLK 4000 Georgia Folklore
- EDLA 7440 Theory and Pedagogy in the Study of Literature

Composition

- EDLA 7460 Theory and Pedagogy in the Study of Writing (strongly recommended)
- ENGL 3080 History, Theory, and Practice of Argumentative Writing
- ENGL 3090 History, Theory, and Practice of Expository Writing
- ENGL 3100 Twentieth-Century Composition Theory and Practice
- ENGL 3150-A (Poetry) OR ENGL 3150-B (Fiction) Introduction to Creative Writing (prerequisite for either section ENGL 2120 or 2130, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 8180 Composition Theory
- ENGL 8195 Composition Pedagogy

The following courses require permission from the MCE TEEMS coordinator and permission from the instructor for the course:

- British Romanticism
- Critical Theory
- Postmodern American Fiction

Language

Language courses *MUST* be for English/Language Arts – Second Language (i.e. Spanish, French) or Second Language Acquisition courses do not meet this requirement.

- AL 2101 Introduction to Language
- AL 3021 Intro to Linguistics
- ENGL 3105 Practical Grammar
- ENGL 3190 Language Analysis for Teachers of English
- ENGL 3200 Introduction to the English Language (Prerequisite ENGL 2120, 2130, or 2140, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3210 Advanced Grammar (prerequisite ENGL 2120, 2130, or 2140, with a grade of C or higher), ENGL 3105 also *recommended*)
- ENGL 3220 History of the English Language (prerequisite ENGL 2120, 2130, or 2140, with a grade of C or higher)
- ENGL 3955 Language in the African-American Community
- EDLA 7460 Theory and Pedagogy in the Study of Writing
- ENGL 8005 Practical Grammar
- ENGL 8090 History of the English Language
- ENGL 8100 Directed Reading; Must apply during semester prior to taking this course; See advisor for details
- ENGL 8230 American English (linguistics; development of American English)
- ENGL 8245 African American Language
- ENGL 8900 Topics course; content varies

Georgia History

- HIST 4310 Georgia History
- HIST 8060 Seminar: History of the South

Geography

- GEOG 1101 Intro to Human Geography (strongly recommended)
- GEOG 1100 Geography of US and Canada
- GEOG 4400 Geography of US and Canada
- HIST 3620 Atlantic World
- HIST 4320 Metropolitan Atlanta
- HIST 6320 Metropolitan Atlanta, OR
- HIST 4220 The American City
- GEOG 6764 Urban Geography
- GEOG 6644 Environmental Conservation
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World History/Studies

- HIST 2500 Contemporary World History
- HIST 4700 The Middle East
- HIST 4890 Topics in World History, OR
- HIST 7030 Issues & Interp. in World History
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U.S. History/Studies

- HIST 3200 North America Before 1800
- HIST 3210 U.S. in the 19th Century

Social Studies Course Recommendations

(from current and former graduate students)

Many of the history courses have a specific focus, so check with the professors.

HIST 7010 (US History)
HIST 7030 (World History)
HIST 8030 & 8060

POLS 8100 Seminar in American Politics
POLS-- Southern Politics
POLS-- Urban Political Behavior

- HIST 3220 U.S. in the 20th Century, OR
- HIST 7010 Issues & Interp. in American History
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General SS Classes

- EDSS 3400 Topics in Middle Grades Social Studies
- EDSS 7570 Social Studies Concepts and Issues (strongly recommended)

Note: To obtain authorization to take graduate- level HIST courses, contact Robin Jackson at rmjackson@gsu.edu. Include your student ID number with your request.

Fall 20_____	Spring 20_____	Summer Cohort 20_____	Fall 20 Practicum I	Spring 20 Practicum II & III	Summer 20_____
Recommended Coursework:					
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDRD 7630: Literacy in the Content Area 2. EDCI 7020: Middle Schools in a Diverse Society 3. EDCI 6560: Principles and Instruction in Language Arts/Social Studies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDCI 7660: Practicum I 2. EDCI 7560: Theory and Pedagogy of MCE LA/SS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDCI 7670: Practicum II 2. EDCI 7680: Practicum III 	
Recommended Coursework:					
			EDSS 7570: Issues and Concepts in Social Studies	EDLA 7460: Theory and Pedagogy of Writing	
Needed to Complete the Program:					