

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

General Information

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Mission and Goals

The mission and goals of the School of Education are to prepare collaborative, competent, caring, committed, and culturally responsive educators who are reflective practitioners.

The primary goals are to develop teachers who:

- are knowledgeable about and committed to working with learners,
- understand curriculum and the organization of schools for teaching and learning,
- understand that teaching is inquiring,
- have content knowledge and are lifelong learners,
- value varying learning experiences and diversity, and determine and adjust teaching methods and strategies according to the needs of individual learners.

Educational Programs

Students may choose from a variety of education programs that prepare them to become certified teachers.

The School of Education offers **BS in Elementary Education** and an **MAT in Secondary Education**.

The **BS in Elementary Education** program is designed to lead to a teaching certification in grades P-5.

Other teacher education bachelors programs include **Secondary Education programs in Biology, English, History or Mathematics** and a **Music Education degree** offered through the discipline departments.

The **Secondary Education programs in Biology, English, History or Math** prepare candidates to teach grades 6-12. Refer to the discipline departments sections of this catalog for additional information on these degrees.

Faculty members from departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Mathematics in the College of Informational and Mathematical Sciences teach the content subject courses and assist with field instruction. Education faculty members teach on-campus professional studies courses and some partnership field-based teachers collaborate with education faculty for providing field-based experiences and instruction.

The **Music Education program** prepares candidates for teaching grades P-12 and is offered through the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. The teacher certification program in Music Education is designed to lead to certification for teaching music in grades P-12. The program's focus is three-prong: collaboration with the music program at Spivey Hall, field based instruction by practitioners within area schools, and provision of a technologically rich educational environment. Refer to the Department of Visual and Performing Arts section of this catalog for additional information.

The **Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) with a Major in Teaching Field in Secondary Education** is offered through the School of Graduate Studies

and the discipline departments. Applicants should hold a bachelor's degree in biology, history, mathematics, English, or related areas, and/or have a provisional teaching certificate in these disciplines. These initial certification programs will prepare interested persons to receive a master's degree while also preparing them to become certified to teach in the fields of secondary Biology, English, History, Mathematics. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional information.

Accreditation

Clayton State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC). All education programs at Clayton State University have been approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

Conceptual Framework

The Clayton State University School of Education has defined its theme through the Conceptual Framework. The Conceptual Framework promotes reflective practice, with an outline for preparing quality teachers who are competent, caring, committed, collaborative, and culturally responsive. These qualities are consistent with standards promoted by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium.

Admissions Policy: Elementary Education, BS

Students must meet the following criteria before being admitted to either the Elementary Education or the Middle Level program. More information about the application is available at general information sessions. Contact the School of Education about the dates for these information sessions.

- a. Admission to Clayton State University. (Transfer students who meet the criteria below may simultaneously submit applications for the University and for the School of Education program admission—two separate application forms.)
- b. Elementary Education program applicants must meet with the Elementary Education Coordinator and Advisor.
- c. Middle Level Education program applicants must meet with an Arts and Sciences Academic Advisor.
- d. Completion of at least 45 semester hours of college credit.
- e. Grades of A, B, C, or K in all applicable Core IMPACTS courses. Students are required to complete all courses in Core IMPACTS and Field of Study before admission to program.
- f. A cumulative Institutional Grade Point Average of 2.50 or higher based on all last attempted coursework.
- g. A cumulative Overall Grade Point Average of 2.50 or higher.
- h. Grades of A, B, or C in EDUC 2110 Invest. Critical/Contem. Issue, EDUC 2120 Exploring Socio-Culture, and EDUC 2130 Exploring Learning & Teaching.
- i. Attendance at a general information session sponsored by the Clayton State University School of Education.
- j. Submission of a one-page essay on why the applicant wants to be a teacher.
- k. Completion of the Georgia Ethics Exam.
- l. Attendance at a personal interview conducted by the School of Education.

- m. Once conditionally admitted into the Elementary Education or the Middle Level Program, you will apply for a Pre-Service Certificate. This includes completing Personal Affirmation Questions, a signed notarized Verification of Lawful Presence (VLP) with supporting documentation for VLP, and a signature authorizing a criminal background check. The application will be submitted by the School of Education to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission where they will verify the documents and Georgia Crime Information Center will conduct a criminal record check. **In order to remain in our programs at Clayton State and graduate with a degree in Elementary Education or Middle Level Education, you must be issued a Pre-Service Certificate.** If application for a Pre-Service Certificate is denied, you must withdraw from our program.

In order for a student to be eligible to begin and continue taking upper-division School of Education courses the following requirements must be met:

- Written notification of program acceptance. (Meeting minimum admission standards does not guarantee acceptance.)
- Minimum competence in microcomputer applications as required by the Clayton State Notebook Computer Policy (refer to policy in this Clayton State University Catalog).
- Signing of an affidavit to show compliance with Professional Standards Commission Standard II.A. (G10): "The education unit/program shall provide information to each candidate about professional ethical standards, background check, and clearance for certification and employment; and ensure that candidates admitted to the program are persons whose social and ethical behavior is acceptable as an educator." The affidavit form is provided upon formal notification of admission to the BA program. Teacher candidates must provide evidence of liability insurance and successful background check clearance prior to participation in specific field-based or clinical experiences. Proof of SGAE or PAGE membership must be submitted as well.

Application Procedures

- Applicants who meet the criteria explained above should submit an application form and supporting documentation to the Clayton State University School of Education on or before the posted application deadline. Late applications will be considered if slots are available. (Application forms are available from the School of Education.)
- The **application deadline** for the programs within the School of Education are **posted on the School of Education website**. (The deadline period is called an admission cycle.)
- All complete and eligible applications received by the published deadlines will be considered for the available positions in the programs for the appropriate semester. Complete applications must include all required documentation.
- Applicants not admitted during a given admission cycle and individuals who fall below minimum standards after notification of admission may, upon written request to the School of Education, have their applications reconsidered during the next admission cycle. Reconsideration is not automatic; written request is required, and additional information may be submitted.
- Applicants selected for admission during each admission cycle will be notified in writing. The admission notice will indicate a date by which the individual must formally accept or decline admission; those who fail to respond within the allotted time will have their admission offers revoked, and their spaces will be allotted to other eligible applicants. Candidates admitted into the Middle Level Education, BA

program will be assigned an advisor in education for their junior and senior year

- The School of Education will evaluate equivalencies for other courses in the Middle Level Education program. Every effort will be made to accept credit that is reasonably equivalent to Clayton State University courses. However, the University reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or to require specific site-based experiences or directed readings to validate credit and/or to meet certification requirements. Applicants will be notified in writing of such requirements.

Provisional/Conditional Admission Policy

Provisional/Conditional admission may be granted to students with no more than three Areas A-F courses left to complete, students who have not successfully completed the Writing Assessment, and/or students who have not successfully completed the oral interview. Students granted provisional admission will have one academic year to complete all outstanding course requirements and one semester to complete all Writing Assessment and/or interview requirements.

Readmission Policy

Students who fail to maintain admission criteria after receiving written notification of program acceptance will have their admission revoked. Upon written request, such students will be reconsidered when they again meet the eligibility criteria and provide the following: an application for a Pre-Service Certificate (this includes completing Personal Affirmation Questions, a signed notarized Verification of Lawful Presence (VLP) with supporting documentation for VLP, and a signature authorizing a criminal background check), evidence of liability insurance, and a signed acknowledgement of GaPSC Code of Ethics for Educators.

Admissions Policy: Secondary Education, BA and BS Programs

Students must meet the following criteria before being admitted to the Secondary Education program. More information about the application process is available at general information sessions held each semester. Students should contact their advisor for application materials and procedures.

- Admission to Clayton State University
- Completion of at least 45 semester hours of general education college credit
- Successful completion (minimum grade of C) in all required content discipline and education courses
- Minimum Overall Grade Point Average of 2.50 or higher
- Demonstrated writing proficiency or completion of ENGL 1101 English Composition I with grade of C or better
- Successful completion of EDUC 2110 Invest. Critical/Contem. Issue, EDUC 2120 Exploring Socio-Culture, and EDUC 2130 Exploring Learning & Teaching with grade of C or better
- Successful completion of the Entry Ethics Exam (#350)
- Attendance at a CSU School of Education information session or meeting with content program coordinator
- A one-page essay explaining reason for wanting to be a secondary grades educator.
- Once conditionally admitted into the Secondary Education Program, you will apply for a Pre-Service Certificate. This includes completing*

Personal Affirmation Questions, a signed notarized Verification of Lawful Presence (VLP) with supporting documentation for VLP, and a signature authorizing a criminal background check. The application will be submitted by the School of Education to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission where they will verify the documents and Georgia Crime Information Center will conduct a criminal record check. In order to remain in our program at Clayton State and graduate with Secondary Teacher Certification, you must be issued a Pre-Service Certificate. If application for a Pre-Service Certificate is denied, you must withdraw from our program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

General University policies on good standing and academic and disciplinary probation and suspension apply to the School of Education programs. In addition to these policies education students are required to maintain a cumulative Institutional Grade Point Average of 2.50 or higher based on all last attempted coursework and a cumulative Overall Grade Point Average of 2.50 or higher.

Due to the sensitive nature of working with children and youth in authentic school settings, the following additional standard applies: Any faculty member or administrator of the University and/or a cooperating school system may immediately remove a candidate from an on-site setting if, in that person's professional judgment, the candidate has acted in an inappropriate manner involving children or youth. The Coordinator for Educational Field Experiences and/or the Department Head for the School of Education/Director of Professional Education Programs will investigate the case in an expeditious manner. The Department Head will issue a written ruling to the candidate with copies to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Depending on the circumstances, the ruling may include exoneration, admonishment, probation, suspension of reasonable duration, or dismissal. Appeals may be initiated according to established University Academic Appeal policy.

In order to be placed in the senior year internship, which begins at the end of July or beginning of August, depending on the school year calendars of the seven local school districts with which we partner, candidates must have in place the following:

- A cumulative Overall GPA of 2.50 or higher
- A cumulative Institutional GPA of 2.50 or higher based on all last attempted coursework
- Completion of each course in the program sequence with a grade of C or higher (or K)
- An updated background check
- Renewal of liability insurance coverage

Course overloads will not be permitted during enrollment in the full-time senior internship.

Teacher Certification

In Georgia, to receive certification to teach, individuals must document having met criteria endorsed by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission, including successful completion of the GACE Content Assessment(s). Fingerprinting and FBI background checks are required for professional employment in Georgia public schools. An applicant for certification in Georgia must comply with the ethical standards of the profession. Additional information and Georgia certification applications

are available online at www.gapsc.com (<http://www.gapsc.com>). The School of Education will assist students in submitting proper documentation to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Graduation Requirements

- Grades of A, B, C, or K in all courses used to meet program requirements and a minimum 2.50 Program GPA.
- Submission of a complete teaching practice and performance assessment/ portfolio prepared in accordance with published guidelines to establish that the Unit Outcomes and Candidate Proficiencies have been met.
- Participation in examinations, surveys, performance assessments, and any other required activities administered for purposes of program evaluation and program exit.

Education Policies and Procedures

Education students are bound by the rules and policies stated in the School of Education Unit Policy Manual and in the Intern Handbook. Both are posted on the School of Education home page at <http://www.clayton.edu/teachered> (<http://www.clayton.edu/teachered/>).

Honor Societies and Clubs

The Clayton State University Teacher Education Club, the Student Georgia Association of Educators (SGAE), the Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE), and the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) are among the honor societies, clubs, and service organizations designed to support and supplement the educational and professional development of students.

Programs

Baccalaureate Programs

- Biology, BS, Secondary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/biology/biology-secondary-education-bs/>)
- Elementary Education, BS (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/teacher-education/elementary-education-bs/>)
- English, BA, Secondary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/english/english-secondary-education-ba/>)
- History BA, Secondary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/humanities/history-secondary-education-ba/>)
- Mathematics, BS, Secondary Education Concentration (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/information-mathematical-sciences/mathematics/mathematics-secondary-education-bs/>)

Minor Programs

- Education Specialties, Minor (<https://catalog.clayton.edu/academic-catalog/arts-sciences/teacher-education/education-specialties-minor/>)

Faculty

LaTasha Jones-Adams
Dennis Attick
Erica K. Dotson
Charles J. Elfer

Mandy E. Lusk
Winifred C. Nweke
Rosette Riddle
Sharren Thomas