

## Alternative Teacher Certification (Post-B.A. Certificate)

For mature, motivated adults wishing to change their professional paths, the Alternative Certification program at Governors State University can chart a new course toward a fulfilling career in teaching. The program enables adults with college degrees and at least five years of work experience in other fields to become fully certified teachers in 16 months.

### Empowered to Teach

This is an intensive, accelerated program using classroom instruction, field experiences, and a paid teaching internship to prepare you to become teachers in kindergarten through ninth grade. You will work in high-need, low-income school districts and, after certification, must agree to teach for three years in the partner district.

GSU's Alternative Certification program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for recommendation of the Initial Elementary Certificate by entitlement. To be recommended for certification by GSU, you must complete general education content requirements, 25 to 26 hours in professional education requirements, and 18 hours in an identified teaching specialization area.

### Unlimited Opportunity

GSU offers a superior educational opportunity at an affordable tuition rate while maintaining the professional quality of its programs. GSU's outstanding faculty and real-world curriculum prepare graduates to meet the demands of the future.

### Academic Advisor:

Eileen Lally  
G373  
708.534.4399  
elally@govst.edu

## SUCCESS BY DEGREES



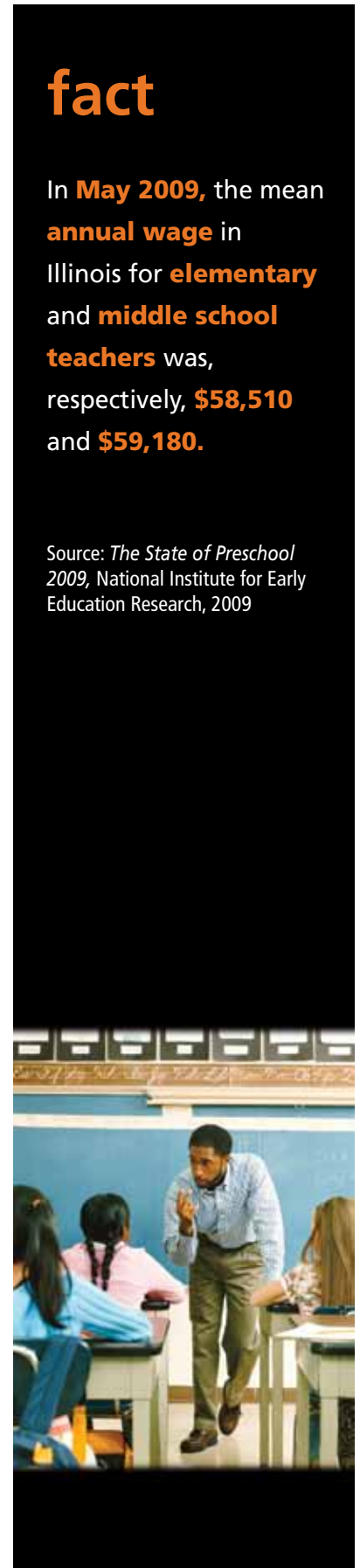
1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

708.534.4840 [www.govst.edu/coe](http://www.govst.edu/coe)

## fact

In **May 2009**, the mean **annual wage** in Illinois for **elementary** and **middle school teachers** was, respectively, **\$58,510** and **\$59,180**.

Source: *The State of Preschool 2009*, National Institute for Early Education Research, 2009



# SUCCESS BY DEGREES

## Eligibility

This program is designed for individuals who have obtained their bachelors degree, and can document five years of work experience following baccalaureate completion. Individuals must be willing to complete their internship, and work in one of the program's partner school districts for a period of three to five years.

## Special Admissions Requirements

Admission to the program is on a competitive basis. Requirements include:

1. a. Alternative Certification application form;
  - b. official transcripts from all higher education coursework providing evidence of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution;
  - c. 300 word essay expressing interest in the program and a career in education;
  - d. reference that documents experience working with children or young adults;
  - e. documentation from employer(s) verifying five years of employment after receiving baccalaureate degree;
  - f. current resume; and
  - g. report indicating a passing score on the Illinois Basic Skills Certification Exam;
2. Holistic assessment of results of the ETS Proficiency Profile Examination, writing examination, and Haberman's Urban Teacher Interview; and
3. Signed contract to teach in one of the partnership districts.

## Candidate Progress

The Alternative Certification Assessment Committee made up of faculty and school district personnel monitors and evaluates candidates progress continually and specifically at four checkpoints. A more detailed statement of the standards and processes followed by the Alternative Certification faculty is available in the Alternative Certification Candidate Handbook available at [www.govst.edu/read](http://www.govst.edu/read).

## Admission to Teaching Internship

Before the teaching internship, candidates must:

1. pass the Illinois Basic Skills Test and the Illinois Elementary/Middle Content Area Test;
2. apply for and receive an Illinois Type 23 Provisional Teaching Certificate; and
3. have a signed contract to teach in one of the partnership school districts.

## Middle School Endorsement

Candidates are encouraged to contact their advisor if middle school endorsements are desired so their study plan reflects this decision.

## Program Portfolio

The program portfolio is a selection of examples of student work (artifacts) that is organized according to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and Standards for Certification in Elementary Education. Throughout the program,

Governors State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

This information is for reference only. For complete degree information, please refer to the current approved Governors State University catalog online at [www.govst.edu/catalog](http://www.govst.edu/catalog).

# Alternative Teacher Certification (Post-B.A. Certificate)

candidates choose artifacts to include in their portfolios, write reflections, and receive evaluations of their artifacts and reflections. At the conclusion of the program, candidates will have completed a portfolio that contain artifacts for each standard.

## Teacher Certification

This program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for recommendation of the Initial Elementary Certificate by entitlement. To be recommended for certification by Governors State University, candidates must complete general education content requirements, 25-26 credit hours in professional education requirements, and 18 hours in an identified teaching specialization area.

To be recommended for an Illinois State Board of Education teaching certificate, the student must present evidence of have passed the Basic Skills, Subject Matter Knowledge/Content, and Assessment of Professional Teaching examinations of the Illinois Teaching Certification Testing System.

To be recommended by Governors State University candidates must complete the program and apply for the certificate within one year of the program's ending date.

### I. General Education Requirement for Teacher Certification

The Alternative Certification program requires that candidates have a background in general education. Courses can be taken at the lower or upper division levels. A grade of "C" or higher must be earned. The following areas provide the guideline for general education courses:

- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Mathematics
- Science
- Survey of American History
- U.S. Government
- Additional Social Sciences
- Additional Humanities
- Health/Nutrition
- Third World Culture

### II. Professional Course Work Requirement (minimum 24 Hours)

The following courses must be taken at the upper-division level. A grade of "B" or higher must be earned.

EDUC	320	Future of American Education.....	3
EDUC	321	Effective Teaching and Laboratory.....	4
ALTC	601	Strategies for Teaching in the Content Area.....	4
ALTC	602	Theory to Practice.....	3
ALTC	603	Alternative Certification Field Experience....	2
ALTC	605	Reflective Teaching I - Management, Planning, and School Culture.....	3
ALTC	606	Reflective Teaching II - Quality Instruction in High Need Schools.....	3
ALTC	607	Reflective Teaching III - Teacher Leadership and Research-Based Instruction.....	3
ALTC	609	Middle School Curriculum and Instructional Strategies (0-1)	

### III. Teaching Specializations (0-18)

Candidates must have 18 hours in one of the following teaching specializations:

- General Science
- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- Social Science

### IV. Total - minimum of 24 Hours