

Dear New Secondary Education Student:

Admission to the teacher education programs at Governors State University is a two-tiered process. The first tier requires admission to the University. The second tier of the process requires admission to one of the secondary teacher education programs after candidates complete Gateway I requirements that include:

Gateway I

- Completion of all undergraduate course work with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher;
- Submission of evidence of having passed the Basic Skills Test of the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS). Please do not take the content area portion of this exam until you are nearing completion of all your coursework;
- Submission of scores from the ETS Proficiency Profile*;
- Completion of EDUC 310 (Foundations of Education, or equivalent) with a grade of "B" or better;
- Submission of evidence of having completed a criminal background check**;
- Submission of a word-processed essay of not more than 300 words explaining why you would like to become a teacher. Content, writing proficiency and overall student dispositions will be assessed from this essay. (See below for submission guidelines.)***
- Completion of a Student Study Plan developed in conjunction with your academic advisor.

Please be advised that you must meet with your advisor to check completion of these requirements before the end of your second trimester or registration may be delayed.

Helpful information can be found on the College of Education website: www.govst.edu/coe/ under the *Resources* link, including information on the ICTS Basic Skills and content exam testing dates, and student teaching application deadlines. You may access Illinois testing information directly at www.icts.nesinc.com/. Refer to your secondary education handbook and the secondary education website at www.govst.edu/secondary.ed/ often during your educational career for important information related only to secondary education students.

*The ETS Proficiency Profile is a measure of college-level reading, mathematics, writing, and critical thinking in the context of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The Proficiency Profile is designed for colleges and universities to assess their general education outcomes, so they may improve the quality of instruction and learning. It focuses on the academic *skills* developed through general education courses, rather than on the *knowledge* acquired about the subjects taught in these courses. You will need to pre-register for this exam on the College of Education website: www.govst.edu/coe/. Go to the "Resources" link for test dates and other information. There are two test dates per term with a limited number of testing seats available.

* *Criminal background checks are done online through: www.certifiedbackground.com

** *Send essay as an e-mail attachment to secondaryed@govst.edu Include name, student ID# and program in the subject line of the email and on the essay.

Please feel free to call your academic advisor if you have any questions. We look forward to working and learning with you.

Sincerely,

Committee on Secondary Education:

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