

Fact

At Governors State University, the English Education Certificate program enables you to turn your undergraduate degree in English into a rewarding career as a teacher on the secondary level. English teachers guide their students through the world of writers who use the power and scope of words to explore the joys and struggles of life and humanity. Our 21st century world is filled with new options for sharing information – Facebook, Twitter, and Skype are changing the way we communicate – but it is still necessary to learn writing skills so that the words on the computer screen have meaning.

Outstanding Preparation

Teacher Education at GSU is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. It has also been recognized by the National Council of Teachers of English.

The sequence of coursework is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and leads to an initial high school licensure in English Language Arts. You can also obtain an endorsement for teaching in middle school. To be recommended for an Illinois State Board of Education teaching license, you must present evidence of having passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (formerly Basic Skills), Subject-Matter Knowledge, and Assessment of Professional Teaching examinations of the Illinois Certification Testing System. You must complete a student teaching requirement in English and meet other requirements for certification through approved programs in the Teacher Education and Certification section of the GSU catalog.

Unlimited Opportunity

GSU offers a superior educational opportunity at an affordable tuition rate without sacrificing the professional quality of its programs. GSU's outstanding faculty and real-world curriculum prepare graduates to meet the demands of the future.

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Teacher Licensure

This sequence of courses is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education and leads to the Initial Secondary Licensure in English Language Arts. To be recommended for licensure by Governors State University, students must earn a grade of "B" or better in EDUC-4999 Student Teaching: English.

To be recommended for an Illinois State Board of Education teaching license, the student must present evidence of having passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (formerly Basic Skills), Subject-Matter Knowledge, and Assessment of Professional Teaching examinations of the Illinois Certification Testing System.

Students must meet other requirements for licensure through approved programs listed in the Licensure of Teachers and Other School Professionals section in the catalog. This requirement is likely to include additional general education, education, and content courses.

Students choosing to pursue the middle school endorsement must take three (3) hours in Early Adolescent Educational Psychology and three (3) hours in Curriculum Methods for Middle School. Students should contact the Office of Secondary Education for specific course numbers.

Admission to English Education

In addition to meeting all university admissions requirements for the certificate, applicants must meet the following requirements to be admitted to the English Education certificate:

1. have a bachelor's or higher in English from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. have a cumulative average G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher in all lower division courses applied to the degree program; and
3. submit a word-processed essay not to exceed 300 words explaining why the applicant wishes to be a teacher.

Continuation in the Certificate

In order to continue in the certificate after the first term of enrollment, students must meet the following requirements:

1. complete EDUC - 2310 Foundations of Education (3), (or equivalent) with a grade of "B" or better;
2. submit evidence of having passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (formerly Basic Skills) of the Illinois licensure Testing system; and
3. submit scores from the ETS Proficiency Profile.

Some schools and/or school districts require criminal background checks in advance of any field experience undertaken by teacher preparation candidates in school settings. Candidates may be required to comply with these requirements. Consult with your advisor for information concerning the related GSU policies and procedures.

Student Progress

The faculty monitors and evaluates student progress continually. The section, Licensure of Teachers and Other School Professionals, in the catalog provides a general description of the standards used to evaluate student progress. A more detailed statement of the standards and processes followed by the secondary education faculty is available in the Secondary Education Undergraduate Student Handbook.

Conditional Continuation

The faculty may permit a student to continue conditionally. In such cases, faculty reviews of the student's records identify evidence that the student will likely be successful in the program. The status of all students allowed to continue under conditions is reviewed by the faculty each term, and the students are informed in writing of the conditions necessary for them to be transferred to good standing status. When conditions are met, the student is informed in writing of the transfer to good standing status. A student may not be admitted to student teaching without being in good standing status.

Admission to Student Teaching

Before enrolling in EDUC-4999 Student Teaching, an application for admission to student teaching must be submitted to the director of Field Experiences in the College of Education. The application must be submitted by December 1 for the fall term and January 31 for the spring term preceding the academic year in which the student intends to teach (student teaching is not offered in the summer term). This application for student teaching will certify that the student applying has or will have met the following requirements:

1. completed general education requirements with a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher in courses taken at Governors State University;
2. completed professional education course requirements, except student teaching, including 100 clock-hours of field experience with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher, with a grade of "C" or better in each course and EDUC-4465, ENGL-6570 and ENGL-6575 with a grade of "B" or better;
3. must have completed methods courses no more than two years prior to the commencement of student teaching;
4. must have no more than six hours (at the discretion of the advisor) remaining to be completed in the major, with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher, and completing all courses with a grade of "C" or better;
5. met all state requirements applicable to the subject matter area(s) in which the student will teach as outlined in Section IX, Staff Qualifications of the Illinois State Board of Education publication, Minimum Requirements for State Licensure;
6. submitted evidence of having passed the English Content Area Examination of the Illinois Licensure Testing System; and
7. receive a positive recommendation from the Secondary Education Student Progress Committee.

Degree Requirements

Students must meet all university requirements for a license, and, in addition, students must complete the general education requirement for teacher licensure Initial High School License listed in the teacher education section of the catalog.

In addition, students must:

1. have a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher;
2. earn a grade of "C" or better in all general education courses;
3. have a G.P.A. of 2.75 or higher for all general education courses, if applicable;
4. have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher in English courses with a grade of "C" or better in each course;
5. have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher for EDUC-3440 , EDCP-6101 and SPED-6101 with a grade of "C" or better in each course;
6. earn a grade of "B" or better in EDUC-2310 , EDUC-4465 , ENGL-6580 , ENGL-6570 and ENGL-6575 ;
7. earn a grade of "B" or better in EDUC-4999 Student Teaching ;
8. complete a minimum of 100 clock-hours of supervised pre-student teaching experiences;
9. provide evidence of successful completion of Illinois and U.S. Constitution examinations;
10. complete at least one three-hour course in nonwestern or third world cultures;
11. show evidence of having passed the Assessment of Professional Teaching;
12. meet any additional requirements listed in the Teacher Licensure section of this catalog; and
13. receive a positive recommendation from the Secondary Education Student Progress Committee.

English Education Certificate

College of Arts and Sciences

Professional Education (minimum of 24 Hours)

The following courses can be taken at either the lower-division or upper-division level:

EDUC - 2310 Foundations of Education (3)
SPED-2100/6101 Sur. Students w/ Exceptionalities (3)
EDCP-2101/6101 Intro. to Educational Technology (3)

The following courses must be taken at the upper-division level:

EDUC - 3440 Educational Psychology II: (3)
EDUC - 4465 Methods of Teaching English (3)
EDUC - 4999 Student Teaching (12)

Additional Requirements

Students may need to complete additional general education or English courses if their degree requirements do not meet the requirements of the approved Governors State University program for the endorsement in English Education.

Minimum Total - 24 Hours at GSU

Note: The Student Handbook Undergraduate Degrees in Secondary Education referred to in fact sheet is available online at http://www.govst.edu/Academics/Colleges_and_Programs/College_of_Arts_and_Sciences/Secondary_Education_Programs_in_Biology,_Chemistry,_English_and_Mathematics/

Catalog Year 2015-2016