



Gordon State College

School of Education

Bachelor of Science in Education

Field: Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education (P-5)

Traditional, Parapro-to-Teacher, and Online Pathways

About the Program

The Gordon State College Education Program leads to a Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED) and to Georgia teacher certification in Special Education General Curriculum/ Elementary Education (P-5). Upon passing the appropriate GACE assessments and meeting other PSC requirements, graduates will be certified to teach every core academic subject, as the teacher of record, in the regular PK-5 classroom and/or teach special education students who are in the general curriculum through fifth grade in the state of Georgia.

The program consists of the junior and senior years of a four-year college curriculum. Students may apply to the program on successful completion of prerequisite courses, which represent approximately 60 credit hours of study and are detailed on the Gordon State College School of Education website under the Teacher Education Pathway (Elementary).

In the program, students take all their upper-level courses together as a cohort over five semesters, *including the summer between their junior and senior years*. (See Course Rotation, below.) Coupled with academic course work, candidates participate in field experiences in partner schools throughout the two years, culminating in their internship in the last semester prior to graduation. In each of the first three semesters, candidates will complete 100 hours in specific grade bands: PreK-K, 1-3, and 4-5 respectively. In the fourth semester, students complete a 600-hour internship in any grade PreK-5. Candidates must provide their own transportation to all field experiences and teaching internships.

Pathways

Three pathways for the BSED program are available. All require the same prerequisites, courses within the program, course rotation, field experiences, and all related non-course requirements.

The Traditional Pathway is open for all applicants. Students in this pathway are placed in field experiences by our Director of Field Placement. Academic courses are held in-person on our Barnesville, GA campus.

The Parapro-to-Teacher (P2T) Pathway requires that a student holds a position as a paraprofessional in a public school in Georgia. The parapro student is responsible for coordinating with his/her principal to arrange field experiences and internship/student teaching in required grade bands within the school system. Academic courses for this pathway are online.

The Online Pathway is open to students in Georgia who are not currently employed in a public school but wish to take classes online. Students in this pathway are placed in field experiences by our Director of Field Placement based on their location and dependent upon a signed MOU with the local school system.

Admission Procedures & Notification of Acceptance

Admission to the Bachelor of Science in Education Program is based on quality of the application and available space. The process opens in early January when the Program Admissions Committee meets biweekly to review completed applications. Applicants will be notified via their Gordon State email of Acceptance, Acceptance with Conditions, Nonacceptance, or placement on a waiting list.

Special Note

Because this program includes field experiences in schools and leads to teacher certification, standards for ethical and professional behavior are rigorous. Applicants should be aware of and agree to the Georgia Educator Code of Ethics. Training in this code is included in the GACE Ethics for Teachers Assessment that is required for admission.

Disciplinary action at Gordon State College, in the military, or at any other institution the student has attended may prevent admission. Additionally, two disciplinary referral forms received by the School of Education may prevent admission or result in dismissal from the BSED program after admission.

Refer to the Gordon State College Undergraduate Catalog for further details.

Course Rotation – Junior and Senior Year Courses

Fall Semester - Junior Year

MATH 3001	Topics in Algebra for ECE
LART 3005	Introduction to Teaching of Reading
SPED 3100	Characteristics of Students with Mild Disabilities
EDUC 3003	Classroom Management
EDUC 3500	Professionalism: Field Experience I (Grades P-K)

Spring Semester - Junior Year

MATH 3002	Geometry for Teachers
LART 3090	Literature for Children
SPED 4200	Educ. Interventions for Students w/ Mild Disabilities
LART 3006	Teaching Reading in Content Area
EDUC 3501	Professionalism: Field Experience II (Grades 1-3)

Summer Semester

EDUC 3000	Integrated and Applied Arts
EDUC 3200	Instructional Technology and Media
EDUC 3300	Integrated Social Studies
EDUC 4200	Science in Early Childhood Education

Fall Semester - Senior Year

MATH 3003	Data Analysis, Probability, & Connections
SPED 4000	Educ. Assessment of Exceptional Children
EDUC 4001	Early Childhood Methods Materials
LART 3007	Analysis & Correction of Reading Problems
EDUC 3002	Assessment in Elementary Education
EDUC 3502	Professionalism: Field Experience III (Grades 4-5)

Spring Semester - Senior Year

EDUC 4204	Internship: Early Childhood Education (Grades P-5)
EDUC 4404	Internship: Special Education
EDUC 3090	Classroom Data Analysis

NOTES:

All SPED courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or better.

Field courses must be completed with a "Satisfactory" grade.

All other program courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Application Packet Instructions / Program Admission Requirements

1. Program applicants must be admitted to Gordon State College and be in “good” academic standing before applying to the program. This includes providing official transcripts for any transfer credits.
2. Applicants must complete all lower-level courses in the Teacher Education Pathway (Elementary) by the end of the summer semester, to include an overall last attempt GPA of 2.75 or better.
3. Applicants must have a grade of “C” or higher in core math and written communication courses aligned with or specified by University System of Georgia institutions. In addition, applicants must have a grade of “C” or higher in all BSED lower-level core courses.
4. Applications will be accepted beginning in early January. It is recommended that applicants submit a complete application by June 15. Applications are complete when they contain all the elements specified here.
5. Applicants must **email an essay** in pdf or Word format with the application. Applicants who use AI tools or otherwise misrepresent their effort may be disqualified from consideration. See details and rubric below.
6. Applicants must provide three (3) **Professional Recommendations** using forms provided on the GSC website. Applicants should complete their portion of each of the professional recommendation forms and give it to an employer, someone familiar with their academic ability, or with their ability to work with children. These may not come from personal friends, relatives, or social acquaintances. Forms should be sent directly from the reference to Kelly Wilson at the email address below.
7. Applicants must provide two (2) **Disposition Assessment** forms using forms provided on the GSC website. For traditional pathway candidates, these should come from instructors in college teacher education courses, preferably from Gordon State. For paraprofessional applicants, one **MUST** be completed by a school supervisor. The other can be completed by a co-teacher or school system Human Resources officer. These forms should be sent directly from the reference to Kelly Wilson at the email address below.
8. Applicants must provide **proof of completing the GACE Ethics for Teachers** training and assessment. Refer to “Instructions for the GACE Ethics for Teachers Assessment,” below.
9. Applicants considered for admission may be asked to supply additional information and may be invited for an interview to determine suitability for the profession.

Instructions for the GACE Ethics for Teachers Assessment

All applicants to teacher certification programs at Gordon State College must complete the GACE Ethics for Teachers Assessment, an online ethics training program with included testing. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) requires it for all teacher candidates enrolled in teacher training programs in Georgia. It is different from the GACE content assessments taken at the end of a teacher certification program and from the ethics in the GACE Paraprofessional Assessment.

If you have successfully completed the current GACE Ethics for Teachers or the previous assessment called GACE Educator Ethics (360), you do not have to complete this again but should download proof of completion from MyPSC and include that with your application.

Follow these steps to complete the assessment and report your results to GSC.

1. Register for a MyPSC account if you do not already have one at mypsc.gapsc.org/Register.aspx. (Paraprofessionals should already have a MyPSC account.)
 - For more details, see [MyPSC_Registration_Guide.pdf](#) on the PSC website.
 - Under “Tell us about you” choose “Seeking admission to Georgia Educator Prep Program.”
 - Under “Tell us why you want to register to MyPSC” choose “To take GACE assessment.”
2. Request to register for the GACE Ethics for Teachers Assessment on your MyPSC account.
 - Under the “Assessments” tab choose “GACE Ethics for Teachers.”
 - Select Reason #7.
 - Select “GACE Ethics for Teachers.”
 - MyPSC will redirect you to the GACE website.
3. Register for and take the assessment at the GACE website.
 - Follow the directions at the GACE website to register for test number 351, “GACE Ethics for Teachers.”
 - Include Gordon State College as a score recipient.
 - Pay the \$30 fee to the test provider.
 - Complete the training and assessment modules online. It may take several sessions to complete.
4. As soon as you complete it, the GACE website will give you unofficial confirmation that you have successfully completed the assessment.
 - Download or screenshot the confirmation.
 - Include a copy of the confirmation or image of the screenshot with your GSC Education Program application documents.
 - The GACE site may also give you an opportunity to email your results to us. If so, please email them to merriw@gordonstate.edu.
5. GACE may take up to 3 ½ weeks to officially report your scores to PSC, and then PSC will confirm to Gordon State that you passed the assessment.
 - If all other records are complete (including the unofficial confirmation, above), we will consider a conditional acceptance to our program while waiting for GACE/PSC’s official confirmation.

Application on next page

Student Information

Full Name _____
First Middle Last

Other Name(s) on file at Gordon State College _____

Have you been admitted to the Gordon State College Education Program in the past? _____

If yes, what year were you admitted? _____

Gordon State College ID (GCID) 929 _____

Gordon email _____ Personal email _____

Street Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Demographics

Date of Birth _____ Gender ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other

Ethnic Group(s)

☐ Hispanic

☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ White or Caucasian

☐ Asian

☐ Other

☐ Black or African American

Pathway

The Traditional and Online Pathways are open to all candidates. The Parapro-to-Teacher (P2T) Pathway requires that a student holds a position as a paraprofessional in a Georgia public school.

I am applying to the ...

☐ Traditional Pathway ☐ Parapro-to-Teacher Pathway ☐ Online Pathway

If applying to the Parapro-to-Teacher Pathway, please provide:

Name of the school in which you are a paraprofessional _____

School system in which you are a paraprofessional _____

The number of years you have been a paraprofessional in that system _____

Your designation as a paraprofessional (ie: Pre-K, Special Education, etc.)

Signature

Since this program includes field experiences in schools, applicants who have ever been arrested, convicted, sentenced, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere or been given first offender status for any felony, a crime involving moral turpitude or a crime violating a federal law involving controlled substances or dangerous drugs or a DUI or DWI may be denied admission or be withdrawn from the program.

All candidates who are accepted to the program are required by the State of Georgia to obtain a Pre-Service Certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) **before** program classes begin. Gordon State will provide accepted candidates instructions for and help with this process. It includes adherence to specific ethical standards of behavior, providing PSC with verification of lawful presence in the United States, and submitting to a background check conducted by the PSC, which may include fingerprinting.

I certify that I understand the statements above and that all statements made in this application and on supporting documents are complete and true. I understand that falsification or omission of information requested may result in my application being denied.

Signature _____ Date _____

A complete application packet should be sent to:

Kelly Wilson

Email: kellyw@gordonstate.edu (Subject: Teacher Education Program Admissions)

Physical address: Smith Hall, Rm. 106

Mailing Address: Gordon State College
School of Education
419 College Dr.
Barnesville, Ga. 30204

Program Application Packets should include:

- Completed **Student Information** form, including signature page
- **Essay** written by applicant
- **Three (3) Professional Recommendation forms** (sent directly from the reference to Kelly Wilson)
- **Two (2) Disposition Assessment forms** (sent directly from the reference to Kelly Wilson)
- Proof of completion of **GACE Ethics** for Teachers assessment

Essay

Your response to the following prompt should be typed in 12-point font and **submitted as a Word document or a pdf** file of the following page. This must be in essay format (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion), not a list. Carefully edit your essay, as it will be reviewed by the Education Program Admissions Committee using the attached rubric. It must be entirely your own work. Applicants who copy from any source, use AI tools (including Grammarly), or otherwise misrepresent their work may be removed from consideration.

Essay Prompt and Rubric

In approximately 150 words, describe your motivation for becoming a teacher and explain how your personal experiences, values, or academic preparation have shaped your readiness for the teaching profession. Identify one quality you possess that aligns with the Georgia Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS) and illustrate it with a specific example from your experiences. Conclude by briefly identifying one area for growth as you enter the teacher-preparation program and the steps you plan to take to strengthen that area. Your response should demonstrate clarity, reflection, and professionalism.

Category	Exceptional 4 points	Proficient 3 points	Developing 2 points	Unacceptable 1 point
Motivation & Purpose	Provides compelling, authentic motivation with strong insight into the teaching profession.	Clearly explains motivation with adequate detail.	Motivation is generic or lacks depth.	Motivation is unclear or missing.
Connection to TAPS	Identifies a relevant TAPS standard and provides a strong, specific example.	Connects to TAPS with a general example.	Mentions TAPS with limited or unclear connection.	No meaningful TAPS connection.
Professional Self-Reflection	Insightfully identifies an area for growth with realistic action steps.	Identifies an area for growth with basic steps.	Area for growth is vague or steps incomplete.	No meaningful reflection.
Writing Quality & Professional Tone	Clear, polished, professional; no errors.	Mostly clear; minor errors.	Some clarity issues or noticeable errors.	Unclear or unprofessional writing.
AI Detection Score Less Than 20%	Yes: _____ % No: _____ %			

Scoring

Points possible: 16 Minimum points required: 10

Applicant's GCID number _____

Essay