

Education

The Graduate Education Program is designed to prepare students as educators who will be spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross culturally equipped to provide quality educational Christian service around the world.

Objectives

Upon completion of this program the student will be expected to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of advanced strategies in content related to curriculum and administration.
2. Design and implement instruction, assessment, and administrative practices in the educational setting.
3. Demonstrate the ability to create and evaluate positive, productive classroom environments utilizing formal and informal settings and appropriate classroom management strategies.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of professional roles and responsibilities in public and private education.
5. Develop an advanced understanding for teaching students of diverse cultures.

Prerequisites

The following prerequisites or their equivalents must be met for acceptance into the graduate Education programs:

1. Students must achieve a minimum score of 400 on the verbal and 3.0 on the analytical writing section on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This requirement is expected to be met before enrollment into any graduate level course. However, under special circumstances with approval from the Dean of the Graduate School, a student may enroll for one semester taking no more than 12 graduate hours prior to fulfilling the requirement of the GRE. No student will be allowed to enroll for a second semester without fulfilling the GRE requirement. All transfer students are required to meet the GRE requirement before enrollment. (Students who are graduates of Southwestern with a 2.5 G.P.A. will be conditionally admitted to the Harrison School of Graduate Studies without taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). After completing twelve hours of graduate work with G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher, the student would then be accepted into the graduate school.)

STATE EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION

Students on degrees with a certification track are eligible to apply for state certification and must be formally accepted into the Teacher Education Program, which is separate from admittance into the Graduate Education Program. Certification eligibility is reserved for students who meet admissions requirements, make application to, and are approved into the Teacher Education Program. Students must also successfully complete their academic program, all state exams, as well as fulfill the required 75 hours of field experience and student teaching. (See Student Teaching Requirements.)

Only students completing all program stipulations will be recommended for state certification.

Please see the Education Certification Officer for a complete list of Teacher Education Program requirements.

The candidate is responsible for initiating the application to the Teacher Education Program.

Applications are available in the Teacher Education office or on the Education website at www.sagu.edu. All applications must be accompanied by:

1. A recent photo.
2. A statement of purpose – a one-page, double-spaced essay describing reasons for desiring a profession in the teaching field.
3. Two recommendation forms completed by individuals who can verify moral character and child/youth related experience or other work experience. The Education Committee will not accept recommendations from relatives, SAGU faculty members, or fellow students. Recommendation forms are available on the SAGU Education Department website or in the Teacher Education Office.
4. Recommendation from the University's Counselor, based on results of the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (TJTA). The purpose for taking the TJTA is to identify strengths possessed by the potential teacher. If the TJTA indicates areas that may need strengthening, the student may be required to complete further counseling prior to admission to the Education program. The Counseling Office administers the TJTA, and the results are sent to the Certification Officer upon completion.

Along with the application, eligibility for the program requires the candidate to:

1. Take the THEA (formerly the TASP) and meet a minimum score of 260 in Reading, 220 in Math, and 220 in Writing. Registration bulletins for taking the THEA are available in the Teacher Education office. Internet registration is also available at www.thea.nesinc.com. Passing standards are subject to change as the State Board of Education changes minimum standards.
2. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75.
3. Gain approval of the Teacher Education Committee.
4. Meet such standards as may be implemented by law in the State of Texas at any time during the student's matriculation.

Once the application packet is complete, the Teacher Education Committee will review the applicant's file. The Committee reserves the right to request an interview as part of the application process. The Committee will vote and make a determination of acceptance or denial. Applicants will be notified by mail of the Committee's decision. Any applicant who is denied acceptance will be given a clear statement of reasons for denial. Denial of admittance, for any reason, may be appealed in writing to the Teacher Education Committee.

From time to time, the state of Texas in compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) will amend its requirements for certification. While the SAGU Teacher Education Department does everything necessary to prevent major alterations to a student's degree, it must ultimately comply with state requirements. Therefore, the Teacher Education Department reserves the right to alter degrees and certification requirements as they are compelled by the Federal and State governments.

Student Teaching Requirements

A student seeking state certification through the Post-Baccalaureate Program will be required to complete one of the following:

1. Enrollment in appropriate Student Teaching course and successfully complete twelve consecutive weeks of full days in an accredited school.
2. Employment by an accredited school as a teacher of record under a one year probationary certificate in the area and level for which certification is sought. Students who have worked as teacher assistants or resource teachers are not eligible for a waiver of Student Teaching. Two years experience in an accredited school as a teacher of record the area and level for which certification is sought.
3. Two years experience in an accredited school as a teacher of record in the area and level for which certification is sought.

Due to the added responsibilities during student teaching, graduate students are discouraged from taking more than three graduate hours during their student teaching practicum. Students who wish to take over three graduate hours of course work while student teaching will need the approval of the Graduate Education Chair.

EDUCATION

Early Education Administration

PROFESSIONAL COMPONENT: 12 hours

- EDU 5113 Research Literature and Technology
- EDU 5423 Differentiated Learning Strategies
- EDU 5613 Teaching Students of Diverse Cultures
- EDU 5723 Principles and Practices in Early Childhood Education

CORE COMPONENT: 12 hours

- EEA 5113 Strategic Planning in Early Education Programs
- EEA 5123 Administrative Leadership in Early Education Programs
- EEA 5143 Instructional Leadership in Early Education Programs
- EEA 5153 Leadership Development in Early Education Programs

RESOURCE AREA COMPONENT: 6 hours

Pick from the following:

- EDU 5713 Studies in Classroom Management
- EDU 5733 Advanced Strategies in Reading
- EDU 5743 Advanced Strategies in Learning
- RDG 5113 Instructional Leadership & Assessment for Early Readers and Writers

BIBLE/ELECTIVE COMPONENT: 6 hours

TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS 36

The Masters of Education in Early Education Administration is designed to provide early education (birth-age five) administrators with the spiritual, academic, professional, and cross-cultural knowledge and resources they need to be highly qualified leaders for the faculty, staff, children, parents, and surrounding communities they serve.

Objectives

Upon completion of the program students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge in the field of early education as it pertains to the development of mission statements, strategic planning, ethics, curriculum design, and accreditation issues.
2. Apply for certification in Early Education through Christian Education accrediting agencies.
3. Demonstrate competency in leadership and administrative tasks associated with early education programs including but not limited to budgeting, legal issues, interpersonal and professional relationships and spiritual leadership.
4. Guide their early education staff in the formation of instructional programs that address areas

such as developmental appropriateness, assessment, classroom environment, differentiated instruction, curriculum design, diversity, emergent literacy issues, and biblical integration.

5. Demonstrate knowledge of the overall development of children from birth through age five as well as how that development impacts the learning process.

Prerequisites

Before formal admittance students will need to have credit or provide proof of experience in the areas relating to educational psychology, literacy, and early education methodologies or will need to take leveling courses such as the following:

- ECE 1113 Foundations of Early Childhood Education
- PSY 3353 Psychology of Education
- RDG 3123 Literacy Instruction I

Additional Requirement

Students who have not completed twenty-four hours of Bible/Theology at the undergraduate level will be required to take THE 5223 Christian Worldview in a Pluralistic Society. Any student who has not taken a course in hermeneutics must take BIB 5123 Biblical Hermeneutics.

Students who have met these Bible requirements may take elective courses that have been approved by the Graduate Education Chair.

Students must apply for graduation and successfully pass the Graduate Comprehensive Examinations prior to being approved for graduation from the Registrar's office. Application for graduation must be made by the end of late registration in the semester in which the student anticipates to graduate. In order to qualify for a specific graduation date, graduating students must have all program and course requirements completed. Contact the Graduate Studies office and Registrar's office for more information.