

# EDUCATION

## EARLY CHILDHOOD - GRADE 12 TEACHERS

The Education program is designed to prepare students for certification with the State of Texas, and thus be qualified to teach in either the public or private classroom. This preparation is accomplished through a combination of campus and field-based delivery systems. SAGU offers programs in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education. Through the School of Graduate Studies one can obtain a masters degree in Education. Upon completion of course work at SAGU, graduates meet the requirements to be certified by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS). After passing the TExES exams, our graduates are eligible for certification with the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). The administrative functions for the certification process are conducted by the Educator Certification and Standards Division at Teacher Education Agency (TEA).

### Objectives for Education Majors

SAGU's goal is to provide each teacher with various educational standards. Upon completion of this program, the student will demonstrate:

1. Subject Matter Proficiency:
  - a) Diagnose student subject matter proficiency
  - b) Discriminate textual materials
  - c) Develop comprehensive learning objectives
  - d) Determine and procure material and information needed to cover a subject matter area
2. Instructional Planning:
  - a) Write behavioral objectives for various instructional time frames
  - b) Adapt instructional planning to meet individual needs
3. Presentation Skills:
  - a) Develop activities and delivery systems appropriate to the above objectives
  - b) Develop activities and delivery systems appropriate to the individual students or classes
4. Evaluation and Screening Procedures:
  - a) Administer and use information from norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests
  - b) Establish a student's needs and proficiencies
  - c) Evaluate a student's progress within a specific subject area
  - d) Determine appropriate grade level academic competencies including reading ability
5. Supervision and Management Skills: Supervise groups and individual students in formal classroom and informal social settings.
6. Record Keeping: Document course procedures and monitor individual student progress through them.
7. Professional and Interpersonal Responsibilities: Express his/her legal, professional, and moral obligations to the parents, students, colleagues, and employer.

### Admission to Teacher Education Program

All education degree majors, except those on the Education Degree (Non-Certification), are required to apply and be officially admitted to the Teacher Education Program.

Students pursuing teacher certification or Teacher's Professional Development courses will be required to take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) exam (formerly TASP). More information about

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

the THEA can be found at this website: [www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com). SAGU is a testing site.

**Professional education course work is reserved for students who have met admissions requirements, made application, and have been approved into the Teacher Education Program.** To be eligible to apply to the Program, a candidate must:

1. demonstrate a score of 240 in reading, 230 in math, and 220 in writing on the THEA exam. Passing standards are subject to change, as the State Board of Education changes minimum standards.
2. have completed 60 semester hours, or be enrolled in the semester that will complete 60 hours.
3. have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75.
4. meet institutional English proficiency requirements by one of the following:
  - a) “B” or higher in both ENG 1113 and ENG 1123, or equivalent courses.
  - b) score of 29 or higher on the English portion of the ACT.
5. meet speech proficiency requirements by obtaining a “C” or higher in COM 1143 or an equivalent course.
6. meet math proficiency requirements by passing MTH 1123 or an equivalent course.
7. gain the approval of the Teacher Education Committee.
8. meet such standards as may be implemented by law in the State of Texas at any time during the student’s matriculation.

The candidate is responsible for initiating the application, which is available in the Teacher Education Office and on the Education web page at [www.sagu.edu](http://www.sagu.edu). All applications must be accompanied by:

1. a photocopy of the student’s ID card.
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 other than relatives, SAGU faculty members, or fellow students who can verify moral character and child/youth related experience or other work experience.
4. recommendation from the University’s Counselor, based on results of the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (TJTA). The student may be required to complete further counseling prior to admission to the Education program.
5. A signed “Educator’s Code of Ethics Affirmation” noting the viewing of the Ethics video.

The applicant’s complete file will be reviewed by the Teacher Education Committee, which reserves the right to request an interview as part of the application process. The Committee determines acceptance or denial, and applicants will be notified by mail of the Committee’s decision. Denial of admittance, for any reason, may be appealed in writing to the Teacher Education Committee.

### Special Notes for Teacher Education Majors (Distance Education)

All Teacher Education majors working through distance education must meet the same requirements and standards as specified in these programs.

### Certification

After passing the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TEXES) exams, graduates completing degrees leading to state certification are eligible for certification with the Texas Education Agency. The Education Degree (Non-Certification Track) is non-certifiable.

## Post-Baccalaureate Certification

Individuals with a Bachelor's degree may be eligible for teacher certification through the Post-Baccalaureate program. Post-Baccalaureate students must meet admission requirements for the Teacher Education program (See Admission to Teacher Education Program), make application, and be approved prior to enrolling in professional education courses. Candidates seeking post-baccalaureate certification must meet the following qualifications for consideration of enrollment:

1. bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.
2. accumulative GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.00 scale at the baccalaureate level.
3. take the THEA exam and meet a minimum score of 240 in reading, 230 in math, and 220 in writing. Passing standards are subject to change, as the State Board of Education changes minimum standards.

Candidates who meet these requirements may submit official transcripts of all college work for evaluation, to:

Director, Educator Certification  
Southwestern Assemblies of God University  
1200 Sycamore  
Waxahachie, TX 75165-2397

A fee of \$50 is charged for a deficiency plan of any non-SAGU student. If the prospective student then applies for admission, the application fee is waived in lieu of the fee charged for the deficiency plan. Candidates must indicate preferences in either elementary, middle, secondary, or all-level education, and must select an area of specialization. The specializations offered at the Elementary level are Generalist and Bilingual. Specializations offered at the middle and Secondary levels are English Language Arts and Reading, History, and Social Studies. The specializations in All-level are Music and Physical Education. Once transcripts have been reviewed, a post-baccalaureate worksheet will be provided for the candidate, indicating course work required for teacher certification.

For additional information concerning certification, see "Recommendation to the Texas Education Agency."

## Student Teaching

Eligible students must complete application for student teaching by the assigned date in the academic calendar the semester preceding the student teaching assignment. Applications may be obtained from the Teacher Education Office. To be eligible for admission to student teaching, a student must:

1. have been approved to the Education program at SAGU.
2. have passed appropriate departmental exams in pedagogy and content.
3. have completed, or be enrolled in, all prescribed coursework.
4. have a minimum of 2.75 GPA in all course work related to education and the area of specialization.
5. have successfully completed a minimum of 75 hours of field experience prior to student teaching.

The Teacher Education Committee will review all applications to determine eligibility for student teaching. Admission to the Teacher Education program does not necessarily ensure acceptance into student teaching. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision. Appeals to any decision must be made in writing to the Department Chair of Education.

Student teaching is a privilege granted to the student through the courtesy of the school and/or district

## **A C A D E M I C P R O G R A M S**

to which the student teacher is assigned. Prompt and regular attendance and complete cooperation with the cooperating teacher is required. Students are advised to become familiar with the Student Teaching Handbook prior to student teaching.

Students may not maintain outside employment while student teaching. During the final semester, the academic load will be limited to 15 hours including student teaching.

Students who do not graduate within six months of student teaching will lose credit for the course and MUST repeat student teaching. Candidates who withdraw or are withdrawn from a student teaching assignment must be reviewed by the Teacher Education Committee prior to consideration for an additional student teaching assignment.

### **Recommendation to the Texas Education Agency**

To be recommended to the Texas Education Agency for teacher certification, a student must have successfully met the following criteria:

1. All specified course work must be completed on the degree plan or certification plan in which certificate is sought.
2. Minimum GPA of 2.75 on course work related to the area of specialization and the teaching field.
3. Acceptable scores on the appropriate pedagogy and content specialization portions of the TExES exams.
4. In accordance with Article 6252-13c, Texas Civil Statutes, the Texas Commissioner of Education may suspend or revoke a teaching certificate, or refuse to issue a teaching certificate, for a person who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor for a crime that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the teaching profession. All applicants for Texas certificates will be screened for a record of felony or misdemeanor conviction through the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Students must make application online at [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us), pay appropriate fees, and complete the required criminal background check and fingerprinting. The Teacher Certification Officer will make recommendations based upon satisfactory completion of all requirements pertaining to certification.

### **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) & Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS) Certification**

Students who complete the Teacher Education program at SAGU will have met all requirements for ACSI and ACTS certification.

### **Requirements for Placement in Music Education**

1. The Departmental Placement Examination is given to all incoming music students to determine theory competency. If the exam indicates a weakness in rudimentary skills, the students will be required to complete MUS 0012, Basic Musicianship I and MUS 0022 Basic Musicianship II before enrolling in MUS 1114, Music Theory I. This exam will be administered the first day of class in the fall semester.
2. The Voice Placement Assessment (VPA) and the Piano Placement Assessment (PPA) will be administered by the applied music faculty during the first week of each semester. The VPA and PPA will ascertain whether the student should enroll in lower division applied music or in Class Piano/Class Voice. Students who are advised to enroll in Class Piano/Class Voice must pass the VPA/PPA before they will be allowed to enroll in applied music.

3. **Advanced Standing Options:** Incoming students may qualify for advanced placement. The Music Department administers the tests to determine advanced placement. Students who desire advanced placement must make arrangements with the Chair of the Music Department and take the exams prior to registration. A student may receive a maximum of 12 hours advanced placement credit in music.

### **Behavioral Objectives For Specialization Areas**

The education curriculum addresses all standards and objectives approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). All Education majors must take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) in their sophomore year. Contact the Education Office for test information.

The Associate's degree program in Education is designed to serve as a step toward a baccalaureate degree. The Associate's degree program in Early Childhood Education is designed to serve as a step toward a baccalaureate degree and to prepare students to be childcare directors and workers.