

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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:

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

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 employees, 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.
5. Sign and submit "Educators' Code of Ethics Affirmation."

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 240 in Reading, 230 in

Math, and 220 in Writing. More information about the THEA can be found at this website: www.thea.nesinc.com. SAGU is a testing site. Passing standards are subject to change as the Texas Education Agency 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 enroll in appropriate Student Teaching course and successfully completing twelve consecutive weeks of full days in an accredited school.

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.