

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Specialist in Education degree is designed for professional educators who wish to enhance their competence in an area of specialization. Generally, because the Ed.S. degree is considered a terminal degree, students who pursue specialist degrees do not then enter doctoral programs. However, because some states now require that teachers who wish sixth-year teacher certification complete a specialist degree, some students who earn specialist degrees may wish ultimately to earn doctoral degrees as well. Students who wish to explore the possibility of earning both a specialist and a doctoral degree should work closely with their advisers to design plans of study that are compatible with the requirements for both degrees. Alabama teachers who complete most Ed.S. programs in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching are eligible for Alabama AA certificates. Students seeking sixth-year certification in another state must assume the responsibility for developing a plan of study that satisfies that state's requirements.

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Curriculum and Teaching is the largest department in the College of Education at Auburn University. Currently, 1000 undergraduate students and over 250 graduate students are enrolled in programs that prepare teachers and leaders in 12 areas of specialization. Each program emphasizes the analysis and refinement of curriculum theories and teaching strategies that are appropriate for that area of specialization. In order to satisfy state certification requirements, the Department and local school systems cooperate to provide appropriate laboratory experience at all levels of preparation. All faculty members have earned doctorates in their respective teaching fields. All of the Department's graduate programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and approved by the Alabama State Board of Education.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

The Department offers programs of study that lead to specialist in education (Ed.S.) degrees in ten areas of specialization. Students who complete programs marked with an asterisk are eligible for Alabama AA certificates.

- Agriscience Education*
- Business Education*
- Early Childhood Education*
- Elementary Education*

- Music Education
- Secondary English Language Arts Education*
- Secondary Foreign Language Education – French
- Secondary Foreign Language Education – Spanish*
- Secondary Mathematics Education*
- Secondary Science Education*
- Secondary Social Science Education*

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Admission to graduate programs in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching is competitive in respect to past achievement, scholarship potential, and professionalism. *The Department makes admissions decisions based on the compatibility of the applicant's goals with the departmental resources, the availability of spaces for new students, and a holistic evaluation of the applicant's potential for success in the program.*

To be considered for full admission to graduate programs in the Department, students must complete all components of the application and meet Departmental graduate application and admission requirements as listed below. They must also meet Alabama State Department of Education admission requirements.

- **Complete an E-Application and pay application fee** at www.grad.auburn.edu (click "Apply Online" and E-Application). Create your own Login In and PIN at "First Time User Account Creation." Complete all sections, choosing a "Planned Course of Study" from "Education."
- **Request all colleges or universities previously attended to send one official transcript** to Auburn University Graduate School, 106 Hargis Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Transcripts must show proof of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in an appropriate academic field and competitive grade point averages, both cumulative and in the area of specialization. Typically, students admitted to specialist degree programs in the Department have cumulative undergraduate grade point averages above 2.75, graduate grade point averages above 3.0 and excellent grades in their respective areas of specialization.
- **Take the Graduate Record Examination General Test** (see www.gre.org) and have scores sent to Auburn University. (Auburn University's ETS institution code is 1005.) Typically, students admitted to Ed.S. degree programs in the Department have GRE Verbal Subtest scores above 400 and Quantitative Subtest scores above 400. Scores more than five years old cannot be used unless the applicant has completed a graduate program at an accredited institution since taking the test and can provide official copies of the scores. Computer

versions of the test are administered several times monthly at more than 200 sites in the United States, including Prometric Testing Centers in Montgomery and Birmingham, AL. Domestic Master's applicants to certain program areas who have not taken the GRE but who have satisfactory grade point averages (2.75 undergraduate and 3.0 graduate) may seek provisional admission status for one semester. However, they must submit satisfactory GRE scores and be fully admitted before enrolling for a second semester or qualifying for financial aid.

- **Send at least three letters of recommendation that address professional and academic qualifications.** Ask references to send their letters to Dr. Nancy H. Barry, Head, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, 5040 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849. Hard copies of letters with original signatures are required for admission.
- **Send your brief current résumé** to Dr. Nancy H. Barry (see address above).
- **Send a copy of current teacher certification** to Dr. Nancy H. Barry (see address above).
- **Respond to any requests for additional information** that MAY be requested later for review and approval by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee, Department Head, and faculty members in the applicant's area of specialization.
- Additionally, **international applicants** must send scores from Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam. (Auburn University's ETS institution code is 1005.) International applicants must submit scores of at least 550 on the TOEFL paper version (pBT), 213 on the computer version (cBT), and 79 on the Internet version (iBT) with scores of at least 16 on the listening, reading, speaking, and writing components of the iBT.
- Additionally, **International applicants** must demonstrate (a) full financial sponsorship, (b) proof of a comprehensive medical insurance plan and (c) submit a \$60 fee and an Official Statement of Financing for International Students Form at http://www.grad.auburn.edu/forms/intl_instruct.html

APPLICATION DEADLINES

All graduate applications must be completed by April 1 for Summer Semester admission, July 1 for Fall Semester admission, and November 1 for Spring Semester admission. Applications not complete by the deadline dates will be considered for the next available admission date.

INQUIRING ABOUT APPLICATION STATUS

- Check email at the address you provided in your E-Application for notices from currqpo@auburn.edu.
- Check status of admission results at www.grad.auburn.edu (click "Apply Online" and E-Application) using the Login ID and PIN you created at application.
- Check postal mail at the address you provided in your E-Application for advising information from the Department of Curriculum and Teaching if you are admitted.

PLANS OF STUDY

Specialist programs require at least 30 semester hours beyond the master's degree, at least 10 of which must be in the teaching field (e.g., Early Childhood Education, Biology, Music, Agriscience Education). Additional course requirements in pedagogy; research; evaluation; human behavior, development, and learning; social action or political perspectives; and technology applications vary by areas of specialization. Candidates for the Ed.S. degree must also complete a field project under the supervision of a faculty member. Students completing most Ed.S. degree programs in the Department also qualify for Alabama AA certificates. Checklists for specific areas of specialization are posted at www.auburn.edu/auteach.

Although students' advisory committees are authorized to accept credit for appropriate graduate courses completed at other accredited institutions, students should seek the Graduate School's approval before planning to register elsewhere as a transient student.

FIELD PROJECTS AND EXAMINATIONS

A variety of tasks may be undertaken as field projects, e.g., research appropriate to students' interests, needs, and formal preparation in research; development and field testing of curricula or teaching materials; adaptation and application of strategies learned in courses; and development, delivery, and assessment of staff development (in-service) activities related to students' areas of specialization. Students in specialist programs will take comprehensive examinations that reflect their plans of study. Students must complete their programs, including their field project and examination, within five years of the date that they complete the first post-master's degree courses that appear on their plans of study. Policies regarding field projects and examinations are available on the departmental web site.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Current tuition and fees are listed on the University's web page. Out-of-state residents who receive graduate assistantships pay in-state tuition. Students appointed to graduate teaching assistantships pay no tuition. The registration fee is the responsibility of the student.

A limited number of graduate teaching assistantships and graduate research assistantships are available in the Department and in the College of Education. Applications may be secured from the department head. Additional information regarding grants and loans is available from http://www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/sfs/

WHAT OTHERS SAY

College guides frequently cite Auburn for successfully combining high academic standards and low cost. During recent years, Auburn University has been commended by *Money* and *Fortune* magazines, *Guide to the 101 Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities*, *College Cost Planner*, *Best Buys in College of Education*, and others.

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

To obtain information about the Department's graduate programs, please review the following Web sites:

www.auburn.edu

From Auburn University's home page, you can access general information about the university. You can access the current University Bulletin from this site.

www.grad.auburn.edu

The Graduate School's page contains an introduction to the Graduate School and provides several methods to access the University Bulletin, to request additional information, and to obtain information about specific departments. Prospective students can complete an electronic application at this site.

www.auburn.edu/auteach

The Department of Curriculum and Teaching's web site contains information about its programs; application requirements and procedures; faculty and their teaching, research, and outreach interests; and contact information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact one of the faculty members listed below or address inquiries to the Department of Curriculum and Teaching.

For General Information About Graduate Studies

- Department Head - Dr. Nancy H. Barry (nhb0002@auburn.edu)
- Graduate Program Officer - Dr. Leane Skinner (currqpo@auburn.edu)

For Information About an Area of Specialization

- Agriscience Education - Dr. Gordon Patterson (pattegd@auburn.edu)
- Business Education - Dr. Bonnie J. White (whitebj@auburn.edu)
- Early Childhood Education - Dr. Edna Brabham (brabhed@auburn.edu)
- Elementary Education - Dr. Theresa McCormick (mccortm@auburn.edu)
- English Language Arts Education - Dr. Alyson Whyte (whyteal@auburn.edu)
- Foreign Language Education - Dr. Sue Barry (barryms@auburn.edu)
- Mathematics Education - Dr. Marilyn Strutchens (strutme@auburn.edu)
- Music Education - Dr. Kimberly C. Walls (wallski@auburn.edu)
- Science Education - Dr. Melody Russell (russeml@auburn.edu)
- Social Science Education - Dr. John W. Saye, Jr. (sayejoh@auburn.edu)

Address general inquiries about admissions to the Graduate School, Hargis Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5122 (telephone 334-844-4700 or e-mail gradadm@auburn.edu).

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College of Education
Auburn University

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November 2008