

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The goal of the traditional master's degree program, building upon an undergraduate degree in education, is to strengthen professional educators' abilities and competencies to teach in the public school systems. The programs are designed for students to attain their master's level (Class A) teacher certification. Two degree programs exist: (1) Master of Education – M.Ed., (2) Master of Science – M.S. The goal of the master's degree program is attained through course work which updates students' knowledge and skills in the teaching field, professional education, and supporting areas (i.e., research; evaluation; human behavior, development or learning; social action or political perspectives; and technology applications.)

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 11 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

- Agriscience Education
- Business Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- English as a Second Language
- Music Education
- Reading Education*
- Secondary Education
 - English
 - Foreign Language (French or Spanish)
 - Mathematics
 - Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, General Science)
 - Social Science

*Current teaching certification and two years of successful teaching experience is required for admission to the Master's Degree program resulting in Reading Specialist Certification.

Note: The Alternative Master's Program for Teacher Education is available in selected fields for individuals with appropriate bachelor's degrees who have not completed requirements for certification to teach. Completion of the Alternative Master's Program leads to a Master of Education degree and equivalent Alabama certification. The Department offers Alternative Master's programs in several Secondary Education fields (English Language Arts, Foreign Language, Mathematics, and Science), Music Education, Business Education, and Agriscience Education. The Alternative Master's Program is NOT available in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Reading Education, or Social Science Education. For more detailed information on the Alternative Master's Program, request a brochure from the departmental office or consult the Department's web page.

ADMISSION

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 have

- **A bachelor's or a master's degree from an accredited college or university and competitive grade point averages, both cumulative and in the area of specialization.** Typically, students admitted to master's degree programs in the Department have cumulative undergraduate grade point averages above 2.75 and excellent grades in their respective areas of specialization.
- **Alabama Class B (bachelor's) or equivalent teaching certification appropriate to the area for which they are applying.**
- **Competitive Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores for Verbal and Quantitative tests.** Typically, students admitted to master'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. In addition to competitive GRE scores, 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.

- **At least three letters of recommendation that address professional and academic qualifications.** Ask references to send their letters to Dr. Andrew M. Weaver, Head, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, 5040 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849.
- **A brief current résumé sent to the Department Head.**
- **Approval by the Department's Graduate Studies Committee, Department Head, and faculty members in the applicant's area of specialization, which may require additional evidence to support the application.**

Master's applicants 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.

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.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To complete an application apply for admission on line at www.auburn.edu/main/prospectivestudents.html

- Request all undergraduate colleges or universities to send one official transcript to the Graduate School.
- Take the Graduate Record Examination and have scores sent to the Graduate School.
- Request that three letters of recommendation from academic or professional references be sent to the Department Head.
- Send a brief current résumé to the Department Head.

TYPICAL PROGRAMS OF STUDY

What follows are descriptions of typical graduate programs in the Department. For specific requirements for a given area of specialization, consult appropriate portions of the Department's web page or contact the appropriate program coordinator.

Master of Education (M.Ed.)

- At least 30 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree
- At least 12 hours in the teaching field (e.g., Early Childhood Education, English, Mathematics, Spanish)
- At least 9 hours in professional education in the area of specialization (e.g., Elementary Education, Science Education, Reading Education)
- At least 6 hours of support courses selected from research; evaluation; human behavior, development or learning; social action or political perspectives; and technology applications.

Master of Science (M.S.)

Same as requirements for master of Education degree but requires a thesis (at least 4 hours)

At the completion of their course work, students in all master's degree programs will take a comprehensive written examination. The general purpose of this examination is to determine students' abilities to synthesize program-related knowledge and skills. Students must be registered for at least one hour of credit or for GRAD-7000 (Clearing Registration) during the semester in which they take their examinations.

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS

All students wishing admission to graduate programs at Auburn University must submit recent scores for the General Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination. 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. Prospective students near Auburn can pick up a copy of the current *GRE Information and Registration Bulletin* at Testing Services, 315 Martin Hall (telephone 334-844-5972). Additional information about the GRE may be found at www.gre.org

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 Student Financial Services, 203 Martin Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5144 (telephone 334-844-4723).

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 websites:

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.

education.auburn.edu/academics/depts/ct

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact one of the faculty members listed below or address inquiries to the Department of Curriculum and Teaching, 5040 Haley Center, Auburn University, AL 36849-5212. Faculty may be reached by telephone at 334-844-4434 or by FAX at 334-844-6789.

For General Information About Graduate Studies

- Department Head - Dr. Andrew M. Weaver (weaveam@auburn.edu)
- Graduate Program Officer - Dr. Kimberly C. Walls (currppo@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. Steven B. Silvern (silvesb@auburn.edu)
- Elementary Education - Dr. Andrew M. Weaver (weaveam@auburn.edu)
- English as a Second Language - Dr. Kimberly C. Walls (currppo@auburn.edu)
- English Language Arts Education - Dr. Barbara H. Ash (ashbarb@auburn.edu)
- Foreign Language Education - Dr. Sue Barry (barrmys@auburn.edu)
- Mathematics Education - Dr. Marilyn Strutchens (strutme@auburn.edu)
- Music Education - Dr. Kimberly C. Walls (wallski@auburn.edu)
- Reading Education - Dr. Edna G. Brabham (brabhed@auburn.edu)
- Science Education - Dr. Charles Eick (eickcha@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

5040 Haley Center
Auburn University, AL 36849

334-844-4434 (Phone)
334-844-6789 (FAX)

Web Page:
<http://education.auburn.edu/academics/depts/ct>



Auburn University is an equal opportunity
educational institution/employer.

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