

Could Teaching Be for Me?

Q: Why should I consider teaching middle or high school?

A: Frederick Buechner said, "Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world's greatest need." Teaching provides an ideal opportunity to take your great passion for your subject and use it to serve a great need – our nation's children. Georgia in particular needs smart, dedicated teachers. Many find teaching to be deeply fulfilling (in fact, it consistently ranks in the [top ten](#) most fulfilling professions). Teaching can also be a wonderful stepping-stone to other professions. If you are considering going on for an advanced degree or some other big enterprise, you may want to take a few years to teach, earn some money, and make a big difference in the lives of others before moving on to the next stage in your career. You could also get much of your degree paid for (see <https://studentaid.gov/articles/teacher-loan-forgiveness-options/>) and GC also has numerous graduate assistantships available that can lower the cost and provide a steady income while you work on your degree (see <https://www.gcsu.edu/financial-aid/graduate-assistantships-financial-aid>)

Q: What if I've considered teaching, but I'm just not sure?

A: If you think you might be interested in teaching but you aren't sure yet, let's talk soon so I can help you think through whether or not this would be the right decision for you. I promise not to push you; I don't want to set you on a path to become a teacher unless you decide it is what you really want. We can meet in person or Zoom (Cynthia.Alby@gcsu.edu)

Q: What is the MAT program?

A: The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree in Secondary Education (grades 6-12) provides initial teacher preparation at the master's degree level for qualified candidates who hold a bachelor's degree. (For Art MAT's the certification is for grades K-12.) The program is designed for college graduates whose undergraduate degrees did not include much, if any, professional education preparation and is comprised of a minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate course work that generally take 11 months to complete – June 1st to May 5th. (How great is that?! Most master's degrees take 2-3 years.) Plus, you earn your degree and certification to teach at the same time.

Q: What makes the Georgia College, one-year, face-to-face program special?

Not only have we made it possible to earn a master's degree in one year, but the face-to-face program has two special emphases: "flourishing in academia" (how to use principles of positive psychology to help yourself and your students increase well-being) and "reinventing education" (prepares graduates to play an active role in redesigning education for a new era). And if you want to *significantly* reinvent education, I can help you get there.

Q: Why would a master's degree be a better option than other certification paths?

A: All certification options cost money, but only those that result in a master's degree will automatically raise your teacher pay by a minimum of \$5000 per year. A master's degree will also leave you better prepared, more marketable, and open more possible career paths. The degree pays for itself *very* quickly.

Q: What areas of study does Georgia College offer in the MAT?

A: Georgia College offers the M.A.T. secondary programs leading to certification in Art, Biology, Business/Technology, Chemistry, English, French, History, Mathematics, Physics, Political Science, and Spanish. It is also often possible to become certified in more than one area. Some add on certification in special education, reading, or other areas.

Q: What are the admissions requirements?

A: Check out the requirements at <https://www.gcsu.edu/education/teached/secondary-education-mat>

Q: Is it too late to apply for the MAT program?

A: Your best bet at gaining admittance is to act as soon as possible. Some years the program fills very quickly, and we operate on a “first come” basis. If you can get everything *set in motion* by **April 20th**, you will be in good shape. If you are not able to do that, you should set up a meeting with me, and I can help you figure out how you could still be admitted and what would be required to do so.

Q: What would I need to do to have everything set in motion by April 20th?

A: Do the following as soon as possible so we know to reserve a space for you...

1. Email me so I can help keep an eye on your application (Cynthia.alby@gcsu.edu)
2. Go to <http://www.gcsu.edu/graduate/APPLY.HTM> to fill out an application. As a current GC student, this will not cost anything. Don't forget to print off and sign the signature page and take it to admissions. Even if you are just *considering* the program, go ahead and fill this out.

Then,

3. Print off the graduate recommendation forms (http://www.gcsu.edu/sites/files/page-assets/node-1225/attachments/recommendation_for_coe6.pdf) and give them to 3 people. You only need 2, but you may want to request more to make sure you get your 2 quickly. Follow up to make sure they get completed.
4. Check to make sure you exempt the GACE basic skills test. A 1000 or above on the SAT or a 43 on the ACT will exempt you. If you can't exempt it, you will need to register for it and take it.
5. The above will get you started, and Shanda.brand@gcsu.edu and I will help you finish up anything else you need to do.

Q: What are my chances of getting a job?

A: Nearly 100% of MAT's have gotten good teaching jobs immediately upon finishing the program even in these tough economic times, and right now teachers are more in demand than ever.