

## LEADERSHIP DOCTORATE AND GEORGIA CERTIFICATION

### Candidates holding an L or PL Certificate and Seeking an Upgrade to Level 6 or 7

Doctoral students holding an L or PL certificate can upgrade to a level 7 certificate by the completion of the Ed.D. in Leadership. Doctoral students holding a level 5 certificate may apply for an upgrade to level 6 after completing a minimum of 36 hours of course work and passing comprehensive exams.

### Performance-Based Leadership Certification: Candidates holding a T or S Certificate and Seeking to Upgrade to Level 6 or 7 and Add PL Certification

Doctoral students holding a T or S certificate and serving in leadership roles (as defined by their school systems) may upgrade to a level 7 certificate by completing the Ed.D. in Leadership with a Performance-Based Certification concentration and passing the GACE-Leadership test. Candidates holding a level 5 certificate and serving in leadership roles (as defined by their school systems) may apply for PL certification and an upgrade to level 6 after completing all course work, passing comprehensive exams and the GACE-Leadership test. Candidates are required to complete PL certification requirements prior to being eligible for any upgrade. Please see specific requirements for VSU's [Performance-Based Leadership Certification Doctoral Concentration](#) on our web.

**P-12 CERTIFICATION NOTE:** All certificate levels in effect on December 15, 2010, will remain in place and those educators will continue to be paid at that certificate level. A Grandfathering Period is established in the rule. Those electing to seek advanced degrees under the old rules must have been **enrolled** (admitted and actively participating in coursework) in advanced degree programs on or before July 15, 2011, **AND successfully complete** the [Specialist, Level 6] program by Dec 15, 2014, and [Doctoral] degree by December 15, 2016. Individuals meeting this Grandfathering timeline will be upgraded under the old rules. (*Excerpted from GAPSC memo of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011*).

Doctoral students holding a T or S certificate and who entered in the summer of 2011 may upgrade to a level 7 certificate by completing the Ed.D. in Leadership. Doctoral students holding a level 5 certificate may apply for an upgrade to level 6 after completing all course work and passing comprehensive exams. Students must meet the Grandfathering timeline by successfully completing the [Specialist, Level 6] program by Dec 15, 2014, and [the Doctoral] degree by December 15, 2016.

See also [http://www.gapsc.com/policies\\_guidelines/pg\\_certificateupgrade.asp](http://www.gapsc.com/policies_guidelines/pg_certificateupgrade.asp)

The Ed.D. program of study does not automatically result in P-12 school leadership certification. For information on obtaining a PL certificate, contact Jerry Siegrist at [Siegrist@valdosta.edu](mailto:Siegrist@valdosta.edu)

## **APPLYING FOR THE GAPSC CERTIFICATE**

### **Certificate Upgrades**

LEVEL 5 to 6 ---Upon completion of certificate upgrade requirements you will need to complete the [PSC ALTERNATE LEVEL 6 CERTIFICATION OPTION FORM](#) and submit it to your advisor in the CLT department. The advisor will complete and forward it to the Graduate School for approval. Upon approval the Graduate School will return the completed PSC request form to the department to be forwarded to you. Either you or your school system should then forward the request for PSC approval along with your [GEORGIA PSC CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM](#).

LEVEL 6 to 7---Upon completion of your doctoral degree you may apply for a certificate upgrade (level 7) through your local school system using the [GEORGIA PSC CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM](#)

### **Adding Performance Based Leadership to Your Certificate**

If you are planning to add performance based leadership to your current professional certificate, this application process must be initiated through the dean's office in the College of Education (EC 227). It should be noted that PL certification can only be added to a level 6 certificate (see level 5 to 6 upgrade procedure above).

About 3 weeks prior to the end of the semester in which you will complete all certification requirements (completing all course work and passing comprehensive exams and the GACE-Leadership test) send a completed [GEORGIA PSC CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM](#) to the certification officer in the COE.

The application may be delivered in person, mailed, or FAXED (229-333-5439).

After the semester ends and grades have been posted the COE certification officer will obtain an official VSU transcript and complete the program recommendation form. These items along with your completed application will be forwarded to the PSC.