### Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership

The Educational Specialist in Teacher Leadership is an advanced degree that prepares educators to meet the GaPSC Teacher Leadership standards providing a foundation for effective collaboration with students, parents, and colleagues. These standards are related to curriculum and instruction, assessment, a school culture that fosters excellence in teaching and learning, modeling best practices in instruction, working with others to design assessments, and using data to work with colleagues in collaborative efforts to improve instruction for all students.

By completing this online degree and passing the appropriate Georgia content assessment, candidates will be eligible for the new P-12 Service Certificate in Teacher Leadership (Level 6 certification).

### Admission Requirements
- Completed Graduate School admission application: [https://www.applyweb.com/vsug/menu.html](https://www.applyweb.com/vsug/menu.html) and application fee of $35.
- Grade point average of 3.00 or above on all previous graduate work attempted. Submission of all transcripts.
- Competitive score on the Graduate Record Examination or the Miller Analogies Test.
- Clear/renewable teaching certificates at the Master’s Level (L5) and be currently employed in a school system.

### Program of Study

#### Core Curriculum (15 hours)
- EDET 8020: Using Assessment and Research Data*
- EDET 8030: Developing and Leading a Community of Diverse Learners
- EDET 8040: Strategic Planning for School Reform*
- EDET 8050: Action Research*
- EDET 8880: Capstone Seminar

#### Teacher Leadership Residency (3 hours)
- EDET 8001: Teacher Leadership Residency I
- EDET 8002: Teacher Leadership Residency II
- EDET 8003: Teacher Leadership Residency III

#### Electives/Specialization Courses (9 hours)
(Graduate level courses – 5000 and above)
Themes to select from include but are not limited to:
- ESOL (endorsement)
- Gifted Education (endorsement)
- Instructional Technology
- Educational Leadership (GaPSC preservice requirements)
- Online Teaching (endorsement)
- Reading (endorsement)
- Other Subject Area Content
- Any combination of above

*Total hours required for the degree - 27 semester hours*
*Work in course must focus on content of candidate’s certification field.*
1. **What is the difference between “Teacher Leadership” and “Educational Leadership?”**
   A degree in educational leadership prepares educators who are committed to serving in a leadership role (principal, assistant principal) at the building or system level. The Teacher Leadership program focuses on preparing individuals to serve in teacher leader roles in grades P-12. These roles may include providing professional development, building a school culture of continuous improvement, and becoming change agents while serving as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, or a similar position.

2. **How long does it take to complete the Teacher Leadership program?**
   The 27 hour program may be completed in 3 or 4 semesters, depending upon the start date. Students may also take more time to complete the program if they choose.

3. **Are courses offered every semester, or is the program set up as a cohort that determines a specific order for coursework?**
   Some courses have prerequisites and must be taken in sequence – 8001, 8002, 8003 and 8020, 8040, 8050, but students may begin the sequence any time.

4. **If I am not employed in a leadership position after completing my degree in Teacher Leadership, will I still receive a salary increase for my degree?**
   Under current PSC rules, you should. Unlike the limitations on graduate degrees in Educational Leadership, a degree in Teacher Leadership leads to a salary increase upon degree completion and earning a passing score on the related content assessment test, whether an educator remains in a teaching role in the classroom or serves in a leadership role. However, always check with your school system and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission before making a decision based on the certificate upgrade.

5. **Could you give me more information about the elective options?**
   Electives may include almost any course offered at the graduate level – 5000 or above. You may take education courses or courses in your content area. Many candidates earn an endorsement (Reading, Gifted, ESOL, or Online Teaching) through the elective requirement.

6. **Could you give me more information about the residency courses?**
   The residency courses will require various clinical experiences. For example, in one of the clinical experiences, candidates will be required to serve as a mentor for a period of time. In another, the candidate is required to design a professional development activity for other teachers (such as a grade level team, departmental faculty, or other faculty group), to conduct that professional development activity, and to report on it.

7. **Is there a certification test that is required after the completion of the program?**
   A new GACE content test for Teacher Leadership is being developed and will be required for a certificate upgrade. The test should be ready spring 2014.

8. **What is the estimated cost for tuition?**
   The estimated cost of the Teacher Leadership degree is $12,245** for 4 semesters (27 sem. hrs.).

   **All cost estimates are based on fall, 2014 tuition and fees.

Contact: Dr. Ellice Martin, Program Coordinator  229.333.5657  epmartin@valdosta.edu or Mrs. Julia McKissack, GOML Advisor  229.259.5095  jrmckissack@valdosta.edu Dr. Barbara Radcliffe, Department Head  229.333.5611  bjradcliffe@valdosta.edu