

Certification Information

Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

Biology

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our program at Valdosta State University for you to obtain a professional teaching certificate. To be admitted into a certification program in Middle Grades or one of the Secondary Education fields, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, have an overall acceptable GPA (2.75 effective fall 2014) based on all college coursework completed (no "forgiveness" policy is applied), have passed or exempted the GACE Program Admission Assessment (formerly known as the Basic Skills Assessment), and have passed the GACE Content Assessment in the content field (e.g., Biology) at either the induction (i.e., score of 220) or professional (e.g., 250) level. The GACE Program Admission Assessment may be exempted by specific scores on the SAT (1000), ACT (43) or GRE (1030).

At the completion of this program (content coursework and graduate professional education coursework), you will be eligible to teach biology at the 6 – 12 grades levels.

Certification Evaluation: A review of all previous course work will be compared with the required courses in our Georgia Professional Standards Commission approved program to determine an individualized certification plan leading to your secondary biology certificate. A variety of means may be used to satisfy some of the required courses. You are expected to provide college transcripts from all institutions attended and any other documentation needed to verify the course expectations that have been met and those courses will be included in your plan of study. There is a \$35 fee for this plan, which will list all content requirements needed for you to obtain the biology (6-12) certificate. Once you have met the content requirements and admission requirements to the graduate program, you will begin the graduate professional education courses, field experiences, and clinical practice (e.g., internship).

After you receive your certification plan, you should review the courses to ensure that you have not completed similar courses. After your plan is finalized, you and your advisor can develop a tentative long-range schedule for completing the required content and graduate courses.

Content Certification Assessment Requirements: Admission to the M.A.T. program in Secondary Education-Biology requires passing of the GACE content assessment in biology (6-12). This assessment consists of two tests; these two tests should be taken as you complete the biology content courses listed in your certification plan. Registration materials and information about this assessment is available at this link:

<http://gace.ets.org/about/assessments>.

Questions? Contact personnel in the Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education by phone at 229-333-5611 or through a contact form submission at <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/middle-secondary-reading-and-deaf-education/forms/contact-us.php>.