

The UACM Program Beliefs

We believe that teachers have the ability and power to provide experiences in which children succeed. This success provides the confidence and competence for children to continue to succeed.

We believe that in order to foster these successful experiences, teachers must engage and connect with students. This connection is demonstrated by treating children with respect, by having high standards, and by helping children to believe that they can achieve.

We believe that in order to foster successful experiences, teachers must be knowledgeable about the child's culture and must actively integrate this into the best practices of teaching and learning.

We believe that from structure comes freedom. The teacher must create a purposeful, structured environment in which children are free to explore, experiment, and learn.

We believe that teachers need to establish an environment in their classrooms where children are respectful of each other, their environment, and the adults in their lives.

We believe that teachers should respect the language of their children and have knowledge of its background and principles. We also believe that teachers should model and expect mastery of mainstream American English for their students.

Funding Opportunities

Through a **Transition to Teaching Grant** provided by the Department of Education, a one-time, one-year **stipends** of \$4000-5000 are available for UACM students entering the program, with a signed, three-year service agreement to teach in a high-needs school.

Additionally, the **HOPE Teacher Scholarship Loan Program** is available during years that early childhood education is deemed a critical shortage field. Please consult www.gsfc.org for further information.

For the cost of **tuition** please visit GSU's tuition and fees link at http://www.gsu.edu/tuition_fees.html.



For an extensive list of **loan options** as well as links to pertinent websites,

Early Childhood Education

Georgia State University
College of Education
Department of Early Childhood Education
PO Box 3978
Atlanta, GA 30302-3978
Phone: 404-413-8020
<http://education.gsu.edu/ece/>



Georgia State University

The Urban Accelerated Certification and Master's Program (UACM)

A GA TAPP Program

Department of Early Childhood



***Become a Teacher.
Earn A Master's Degree.
Touch a Child's Life.
Change the World.***

The Department of Early Childhood Education at Georgia State University is committed to providing a dynamic program for training individuals interested in the profession of teaching. The Urban Accelerated Certification and Master's Program, a GA TAPP program, was designed to address the issue of dwindling numbers of competent and qualified teachers for today's high-needs, urban elementary classrooms. There is an unprecedented need for competent, committed, enthusiastic, hopeful, and reflective teachers particularly interested in working in an urban setting. The UACM program's emphasis is on developing theoretical knowledge as well as practical classroom experience supported by intensive coaching and continuous professional development tailored to meet the joys and challenges of teaching in an urban environment.

Program Overview

The UACM Program is distinctive from other alternative certification programs because we provide extensive experience that equips candidates to be successful by providing a full year of on-site teaching experience and supervision in conjunction with university courses that provide a foundation for understanding how students learn and what teaching strategies are successful with different types of learners. Through intensive experiences and mentoring, the UACM program prepares teachers for the challenges of classroom management, teaching students with diverse needs, school paperwork, and implementing meaningful curricula.

The UACM Program is a two-year program with year 1 leading to a non-degree teacher certification and year 2 leading to a Master's degree. Beginning each May, a cohort of qualified teacher candidates holding a baccalaureate degree, begin Year 1 of the program with a 6-semester-hour course on the implications of culture on teaching and learning. During the summer, candidates are placed into Atlanta metro-area elementary schools where they begin initial experiences under the guidance of school-based mentor teachers and university supervisors. At the end of the instructional day, candidates return to the University for coursework. During the following fall and spring semesters, candidates are student teaching in urban elementary classrooms while also attending evening courses at the University. School-based mentor teachers as well as university supervisors continue to mentor and observe candidates as they grow in their teaching responsibilities.

Successful completion of the Year 1 program of study leads to initial certification in early childhood education and an ESOL endorsement in Georgia. At the end of Year 1, candidates seek a full-time, paid teaching position in a high-needs urban elementary school in the metro Atlanta area. During Year 2, while teaching full-time, candidates complete their Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

Is the UACM Program for you?

New Component!

In order to better meet the needs of high-poverty schools and their changing demographics, the UACM Program has infused an **ESOL endorsement** into the first-year program of study. This endorsement will give graduates the skills needed in order to effectively teach a diverse set of students.

Do you hold a baccalaureate degree in a field other than education? Are you interested in:



- earning certification to teach in elementary school and a master's degree?
- obtaining an ESOL endorsement?
- a career that has an invaluable influence on a child's life?
- working with children between four and eleven years old?
- working in high-needs (economically, racially/ethnically, and linguistically diverse) urban elementary schools?
- making a sustainable difference in schools and society?
- receiving structured guidance and support before and during your first years of teaching?
- working with a team of educators committed to advancing social justice, culturally relevant teaching, and advocacy for *all* students?

If you responded yes to *all* of these questions, then you should consider joining the UACM Program.

For more information about the UACM Program, contact Dr. Nancy Jo Schafer at 404.413.8020 or njs@gsu.edu. Additional information is also available on the web at <http://education.gsu.edu/ece/1511.html>.