Welcome to AFT

Do you think you would make a good teacher? Come find out!
The Academy for Future Teachers is designed for bright, talented, and diverse high school students seriously considering a career teaching math or science in an urban environment or a math or science career. In AFT, students collaborate with public school teachers and university faculty as they develop teaching and tutoring skills, go on field trips, and build an appreciation for the value of professional and academic preparation. Math and science concepts are reinforced as participants practice presentation skills which they use every week when they teach real students. Teamwork and leadership skills are emphasized.

The AFT Experience

The Academy for Future Teachers is an intense three-week, five-days-a-week initiative held at Georgia State University from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. The Academy is FREE to its students. Each participant (who provides a social security number) receives a $200 Stipend for full and complete participation in all three weeks.

A new view of teaching
- Entry-level college classroom experiences facilitated by university level faculty and K-12 teachers
- Classroom planning and management from the educator’s perspective
- Instruction of elementary as well as secondary science and secondary mathematics concepts
- Personal, scholastic, and professional exploration and growth
- Practice teaching and leadership skills

Communication skills in and out of the classroom
- Knowing how one’s own style affects your students and others
- Leadership in school and community
- Team-building and diversity appreciation

Learning Styles & Strategies
- Art and science in education
- Establishing and maintaining orderly and efficient classrooms
- How personality types influence teaching and learning

Program Conversations
- Differentiated instruction
- Professional practices
- Classroom behavior management
- Culturally relevant pedagogy
- Diverse learning styles
Why Participate in the AFT?

Students who participate in the AFT
- Student teach real students every week
- Meet and get to know students from across the metro Atlanta area
- Experience a college setting and interact with college faculty
- Enhance team building skills.
- Discover more about what it means to be a teacher, an urban educator, and a professional.
- Connect with a network of professionals for mentoring and other support as you enter college and a teacher education program.

AFT Structure

Students rotate through Early Childhood Math & Science, Secondary Science, and Secondary Math Education classes to gain exposure to teaching strategies at multiple educational levels. Students enjoy an array of learning experiences, including structured field trips, interactions with university professors, graduate research assistants, public school teachers, middle school students, and GSU Pre-K clients.

AFT classes are held on Georgia State University’s campus in downtown Atlanta. Classes are dismissed just prior to time for AFT students to have lunch (1:00–1:30). Students receive one non-replaceable $95 GSU Panther Card to support food/snack purchases on campus. They may also choose from a MARTA card or a parking space for the duration of the program.

Important: Students without access to MARTA should determine IN ADVANCE of AFT’s FIRST DAY how they plan to get to campus on time every day.

Closing Celebration: On June 24, 2016, the Academy for Future Teachers will close with a celebration designed to acknowledge the achievements, aspirations, and involvement of each AFT participant, educator, volunteer, and staff member. Following this ceremony, each student who has met all participation and attendance requirements of the summer academy will receive a $200 stipend. Satisfactory completion denotes active participation in all offered opportunities and complete, daily attendance.
An outreach and recruitment program of the College of Education & Human Development at Georgia State University, the Academy for Future Teachers is based on GSU’s campus. Renowned for its status as a Research One educational institute, Georgia State University’s College of Education & Human Development offers bachelor degrees in Birth Through Five, Early Childhood Education, Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education, Middle Level Education, Sign Language Interpreting and Special Education as well as extensive graduate study opportunities leading to on-campus master’s degrees (28 programs), online master’s degrees (5 programs), educational specialist degrees (3 programs), and doctoral degrees (12 programs). The college’s diverse academic programs make the downtown campus location uniquely prepared to introduce high school students to the challenges and opportunities of a career in teaching, particularly in urban environments.

AFT Faculty – A Team Approach

Every AFT class is led by a team which includes a university faculty member alongside a dynamic public school teacher. These teams combine the insights of current research with practical, instructional approaches and urban classroom expertise. This mutual learning environment also provides a stimulating professional development opportunity for professional development.

Student Eligibility

First Year Applicants: Rising juniors and seniors with a GPA of 3.0 are preferred.

Rising sophomores who are mature, with exceptional grades, rigorous coursework, and evidence of a service-based ethic are considered on an individual basis.

GPA: While a 3.0 (equivalent) is recommended to be ready for the math and science concepts presented, this is a preference, not a requirement. Relevant qualifications, activities, and recommendations will be considered.

Initiative pays off! Students active in a Future Educators/Teachers Club are ideal. AFT also values applicants enrolled in teacher preparation courses in high school and those actively mentoring other students or working in childcare.

Any student from the greater metro Atlanta region may apply. While most participants are urban Atlanta students, AFT highly values a large, diverse community drawn from urban and suburban counties. Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton County, City Schools of Decatur, Cobb County, DeKalb County, Fulton County, and Gwinnett County are just some who have been represented over the years.

First year applicants must currently be enrolled in high school (or home school) with one to three more years of high school prior to graduation. (Class of 2016, 2017, or 2018)

Second Year Applicants: Invitations to return are based upon faculty and staff feedback related to each student’s participation and scholastic initiative in their first year of AFT. Invitations are mailed to each of last summer’s most engaged students. Others are invited to apply to return based upon open seats. Second year seats are limited to 20. Rising juniors, rising seniors, and those who are graduating May, 2016 and who are college-bound will be considered for the second year of AFT. (Class of 2016, 2017, or 2018)
Apply to AFT Early

Applications are posted at http://education.gsu.edu/AFT. Forms may be completed online then printed out to add required original signatures. (Electronic signatures are not acceptable.) Forms may also be printed blank and completed by legible hand in ink. Attach both essays, then submit entire packet by e-mail scan, post mail, hand-delivery, or fax. Counselors and/or teachers may send recommendations and records later, but they are required for evaluation.

Early is best: Completed applications will be reviewed on a rolling once a pool of ten has been received. Reviews will continue until all seats are filled and confirmed. Applications commonly arrive from February through mid-May. When AFT is full, late applicants who otherwise qualify will be notified of the option to be wait-listed for a seat that becomes available.

No matter what the date, if you’re interested, apply now.

AFT 2016 Student Commitment

**Dates of the Summer Academy:**
June 6-24, 2016
Monday-Friday 8:00 am-1:30 pm
Five days a week for three weeks

All participants are expected to be present from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm every day of the program. Late arrivals (after 8:18 am) and departures prior to 1:00 pm (lunch release) **must** be excused.

To receive the student stipend of $200, **full** attendance is expected. Please plan accordingly. Special circumstances should be discussed early with Team Leader or Coordinator.

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