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 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 are provided an array of learning experiences, including structured field trips, interactions with university professors, graduate research assistants, public school teachers, middle school students, and GSU childcare children.

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 (non-replaceable) 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 26, 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 satisfactorily completed the summer academy receives a $200 stipend. Satisfactory completion denotes active participation in all offered opportunities and daily, complete attendance.
An outreach and recruitment program of the College of Education 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 offers bachelor degrees in Birth Through Five, Early Childhood Education, Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education, and Middle Level Education as well as extensive graduate study opportunities leading to on-campus masters degrees (30 programs), online masters degrees (5 programs), educational specialist degrees (4), and doctoral degrees (10). 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 an outstanding public school teacher. These teams combine the insights of current research with practical, dynamic 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 at least a GPA of 3.0 are preferred. Sophomores who are mature - with exceptional grades and rigorous coursework - are considered on an individual basis.

GPA: While a 3.0 (equivalent) is highly recommended to be ready for the math and science concepts presented, this is a preference, not a requirement. Alternate strong qualifications and recommendations are always considered.

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

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 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 determined by faculty and staff feedback related to each student’s participation and scholastic initiative in their first year of AFT. Invitations will be 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 are college-bound will be considered for the second year of AFT. (Class of 2016, 2017, or 2018)
Apply 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 essays then submit entire packet by e-mail scan, post mail, hand-delivery, or fax. Counselors and/or teachers may send recommendations and records shortly thereafter.

Apply Early: Completed applications are reviewed on a continuous basis in the order in which they are received. Review will continue until all seats are filled and confirmed. This process often continues into early May, so don’t hesitate. Later applicants who otherwise qualify to participate will be notified of being wait-listed in case seats become available. If you’re interested, apply now.

AFT 2016 Student Commitment

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<th>Dates of the Summer Academy:</th>
<th>June 6-24, 2016</th>
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<td>Five days a week for three weeks</td>
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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 and discuss all special circumstances with Team Leader or Coordinator.

For more information:  http://education.gsu.edu/AFT
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