

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Mary Frances Early  
College of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## WORKFORCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

### WORKFORCE EDUCATION OVERVIEW

The Workforce Education programs in the Mary Frances Early College of Education prepare professionals for the public and private sectors, advance the knowledge base of career and technical education and workforce preparation, and provide instruction, research, leadership, service, and policy development.

#### 1. What degree options are offered in Workforce Education?

The program of Workforce Education at UGA offers graduate degrees at the bachelors, masters, educational specialist, and doctoral levels. Non-degree and certification-only teacher licensure opportunities are also available through the Professional Academy for Career and Technical Educators (PACTE) and New Teachers Institute (NTI).

#### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

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##### **Bachelor of Science Education in Workforce Education (Engineering and Technology) (BSEd)**

The B.S.Ed. in Workforce Education initial certification program offers rich coursework and rigorous field experiences that prepare you to teach in middle- and high-school engineering and technology education classrooms. You will develop a strong community through small, cohort-based classes and gain hands-on experience every semester, as you work toward your teaching certification.

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## MASTER'S DEGREES

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### **Master's of Education (MED)**

A professional degree designed for those who want to enhance their knowledge and upgrade their certification (T-5). Degree is offered 100% online and does not provide initial teacher certification. Students admitted fall, spring, and summer semesters.

### **Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT)**

This teacher preparation degree at the master's level designed for students who wish to earn initial certification in a career and technical education (CTE) instructional field at an advanced level (T-5). Students admitted in spring and summer semesters. Certification courses begin in the summer.

## SPECIALIST DEGREES

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### **Specialist in Education (EdS)**

Degree is designed to fit students' needs beyond a master's degree but without the heavy emphasis on research. The EdS can also be designed to meet a student's need for initial teacher certification (T-6) in any CTAE field. Students admitted in fall, spring, and summer. Those seeking initial certification will begin certification courses in the summer.

## DOCTORAL DEGREES

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### **Doctor of Education (EdD) (Athens)**

Degree prepares individuals for leadership and other roles in Workforce and CTAE. Students admitted in the fall and spring

### **Doctor of Education (EdD) (Griffin)**

Degree combines face-to-face and online learning approaches in a prescribed cohort design. Cohorts begin each Fall semester in odd numbered years (2023, 2025, 2027, etc.)

### **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

Degree prepares students for careers where research is a central activity. Students admitted in the fall and spring.

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## ALTERNATIVE TEACHING CERTIFICATION

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### Non-Degree Certification

For candidates holding a bachelor's degree or higher and are only seeking to obtain initial teaching certification in any CTAE field. Students admitted in the summer.

### Certification-Only

Serves candidates who do not hold at least a bachelor's degree and are seeking initial teacher certification in Health (Occupations) Sciences Education or Trade and Industrial Education (CTE Specializations). Students admitted in the summer.

## 2. What is the Preparation Academy for Career and Technical Education (PACTE)?

PACTE is part of the New Teacher Institute (NTI) but is the certification option designed especially for students not holding a bachelor's degree or higher (certification only). These students complete their curriculum, instructional strategies, and year-long teaching internship under the direction of the NTI coordinator. Students receive a certificate from CTAERN Resource Network confirming completion of their pedagogical requirements.

## 3. What is the New Teacher Institute (NTI)?

The New Teacher Institute includes all programs designed for certification in Career and Technical Education from Workforce Education at the University of Georgia (certification only, non-degree certification, MAT, and EDS with certification). The program officially begins each summer. Additional information is available by completing this form ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQhhQo1ZitTtwT5Wqk4oi\\_E\\_Vb7F3vDtAfLRGXl\\_z\\_dnm1YnA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQhhQo1ZitTtwT5Wqk4oi_E_Vb7F3vDtAfLRGXl_z_dnm1YnA/viewform))

## 4. What career and technical education fields are available through UGA's Workforce Education programs?

The Mary Frances Early College of Education is approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) to offer the following career and technical education fields:

- Business Education
- Marketing Education

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- Engineering and Technology Education
- Trade and Industrial Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Sciences (Occupations)

## 5. Do I need to specialize in a content area?

Yes, you must qualify for one of the areas identified above with documented education and/or work experience.

## 6. Can I specialize in more than one content area?

You typically specialize in one area to obtain initial certification. However, you can qualify for certifications in additional areas by passing the GACE content assessment or meeting PSC employment-based requirements.

## 7. What if I don't have content or professional knowledge in any CTAE fields?

Students without a professional background or content knowledge in their selected CTAE field may be advised to take additional related coursework to enhance their content knowledge. Faculty advisors will determine if additional coursework is needed in the student's program of study.

## 8. I'm interested in pursuing initial teacher certification. Which program should I pursue?

The degree program you choose to pursue your initial teacher certification depends on your academic and professional background, as well as your career goals. The table below articulates key differences between the routes to initial certification offered through UGA's Workforce Education Programs.

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PROGRAM	MINIMUM DEGREE	CREDIT TYPE	CERTIFICATION	APPROVED CTAE FIELDS
<b>Certification-Only</b>	For candidates without a bachelor's	Professional learning units	Provisional, Waiver, or Permit in CTAE area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health (Occupations) Sciences Education</li><li>• Career and Technical Specializations</li></ul>
<b>Non-Degree</b>	Bachelor's or higher	UGA graduate credit	T-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All approved CTAE areas at UGA</li></ul>
<b>MAT</b>	Bachelor's or higher	UGA graduate credit	T-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All approved CTAE areas at UGA</li></ul>
<b>EdS</b>	Bachelor's + master's or higher	UGA graduate credit	T-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All approved CTAE areas at UGA</li></ul>

## 9. When, how often, and where are classes offered?

The Workforce Education programs at UGA offer different degrees on the Athens, Griffin, and Online campuses. Refer to information provided above for degree options.

## 10. How long will it take me to complete my degree or program?

Depending on your degree program (Masters, Educational Specialist, Doctorate), your program will consist of one to three or more years of coursework and/or research study (e.g., comprehensive exam, applied project, and/or dissertation). Students must be prepared to follow the prescribed curriculum during each academic term. Graduate degrees in Workforce Education at UGA will require a serious priority of your time. You will not be able to do the work required in your degree program along with every other activity that you are currently doing. You will need to think seriously about what current aspects of your life can be sidelined while you are making priority for your degree.

## 11. Can I complete my degree while working full-time?

Yes, most students in Workforce Education programs are full-time teachers or employees.

## 12. Who do I contact for more information?

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