

Specialist in Education

TEACHER LEADERSHIP

ADVANCED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

★ Blended



Mercer University is an institution built on achieving meaningful outcomes to change lives and impact communities around the world. As a leader in innovative, enriching curricula, Mercer provides relevant, timely professional learning for Georgia's educators.

Mercer offers the **Specialist in Education (Ed.S.) in Teacher Leadership** for educators currently certified at the master's level in teaching, leadership, or service to develop skills as teacher leaders and serve as mentors and coaches for other educators.

This performance-based degree program aims to achieve a proper balance between the experiences required for training a specialist and those required for development as a professional educator working with other educators. Successful completion of the program and a passing score on the Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators (GACE) content assessment for Teacher Leadership leads to eligibility for an upgrade to Level 6 certification and adding the new field of Teacher Leadership.

As a part of the Ed.S. in Teacher Leadership curriculum, students will complete courses necessary to earn an in-field **Coaching Endorsement**. The Coaching Endorsement equips students with the skills to use performance assessment data to guide, mentor, and lead teachers and educators.

Why Mercer's Ed.S.?

Mercer University has been teaching Georgia's teachers and educational leaders for over 100 years and is widely recognized for its highly individualized, student-centered approach to education. Blending theory with practice and critical thinking, the supportive faculty at Mercer are committed to the pursuit of excellence in every aspect of educator preparation.

Earning an Ed.S. in Teacher Leadership from Mercer allows educators to enhance their skills as leaders in their school environment. Support through a teacher leadership portfolio, teacher leader network, coaches, candidate support teams, and individual growth plans aid each candidate's development in teacher leadership. The Ed.S. in Teacher Leadership and Coaching Endorsement curriculum are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

Delivery Format

Coursework is delivered in a blended combination of online and on-campus meetings. The online portion of the coursework is completed using the University's learning management system. Three required Saturday seminars to complement online coursework are conducted on the Atlanta campus, and courses are scheduled in eight-week or 16-week terms.

Beyond The Classroom

Mercer University is committed to serving the needs of schools and communities. We partner with peer institutions and school districts to provide support and opportunities for continuous professional development.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Ed.S. in Teacher Leadership

Offered: Blended (Online and Atlanta combination)

- EDUC 677 Coaching Fundamentals*
- EDUC 678 Advanced Coaching*
- EDUC 710 Advanced Measurement & Assessment in Teaching
- EDUC 720 Advanced Curriculum & Instruction
- EDUC 721 Leadership in Teaching
- EDUC 722 Leadership in Professional Development
- EDUC 723 Collaboration with Families and Communities to Support Student Learning
- EDUC 725 Residency I
- EDUC 726 Residency II
- EDUC 727 Residency III
- EDUC 790 Research for Practitioners
- EDUC 798 Advanced Research for Practitioners

Total 24-30 hours

*Successful completion of these courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0, no grade below B, and completion of portfolio requirements will lead to eligibility for an in-field Coaching Endorsement. Candidates who have previously earned a GaPSC-approved Coaching Endorsement are exempt from these courses.

Credit by prior learning assessment and course transfer may be possible for up to six credit hours. For additional information, consult the University catalog.

A Top-Ranked Leader in Education

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is one of America's most distinctive universities. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Mercer among the leading universities in the nation—including a “Best Value”—and The Princeton Review consistently ranks us in the **Top 15%** of colleges and universities nationwide. The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Mercer University prepares more educators and educational leaders than any other private institution in Georgia, and our graduates are highly sought after and asked for by name. Our students develop the knowledge and experience to teach, lead, and transform schools, districts, and communities, and our graduates are frequently recognized for their commitment to excellence. The College of Education is widely known for our highly individualized, student-centered approach to education. We collaborate with teachers, principals, human resource officials, and other community leaders to ensure that our teacher education and educational leadership programs remain relevant and align with our philosophy that students learn best when engaged in hands-on experiences.

A hallmark of the College of Education experience, our vision of “The Transforming Educator” is the foundation for all of Mercer’s teacher education and educational leadership programs. To become a “Transforming Educator,” an individual seeks to continually and thoughtfully change one’s self in order to serve as an advocate for all learners.

Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission must hold a master’s degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum graduate-level cumulative GPA of 3.0 and be certified educators who hold a valid Level 5 or higher professional, advanced professional, or lead professional teaching certificate, leadership, service, or life certificate. The program enrolls students once per year in August.

Required Application Materials Include:

- Completed application for admission
- \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Official transcripts from each college/university attended
- Documentation of one year of certified teaching experience
- Recommendation from the candidate’s school leadership
- Résumé

International applicants should consult the University catalog for additional requirements.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Admissions

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