

## INITIAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

★ Blended

# Paraprofessional Path to Teaching

Prepare to advance your career, your students, and your school through professional growth in Mercer University's Tift College of Education. Build on your experience as a paraprofessional and work toward earning your **initial teacher certification** through Mercer's Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) or Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program.



The Mercer working adult program provides an *excellent opportunity* for those working in the classroom as paraprofessionals to get out in front and *make an impact* with the students.

GABREAYL HARRIS, '21  
B.S.Ed. in Middle Grades Education  
Feagin Mill Middle School | Houston County

## Continue Working

Mercer's B.S.Ed. and M.A.T. programs are designed with working adults in mind, so students complete the programs through a blended combination of online and on-campus instruction. With our programs' flexibility, many paraprofessionals are able to continue working while earning their degrees.

## Transfer Your Credits

We want you to get the credit you deserve toward completion of your Mercer degree. That's why we've made the process of transferring credits as seamless as possible. Transfer courses are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and each student receives a personalized program plan after their transfer credits are reviewed.

## Benefit from a Tuition Grant

If your school district has an Enterprise Learning Partnership with Mercer, you may be eligible for grants to assist with tuition. Visit [elp.mercer.edu](http://elp.mercer.edu) to see if you qualify.

## Prepare for the GACE Assessments

For full admission to Teacher Candidacy, applicants must pass or exempt the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) for program admission and the Georgia Educator Ethics assessment for program entry, as required by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC). Mercer offers workshops, preparatory courses, and more to help students prepare for the GACE assessments. Students may access some of these free resources prior to enrolling at Mercer.

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# Which initial teacher certification program is right for me?

	<b>I am seeking a bachelor's degree. Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.)</b>	<b>I currently hold a bachelor's degree. Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)</b>
<b>Programs</b>	Early Learning and Development (Birth-5 years) Elementary/Special Education (Grades P-5) Middle Grades Education (Grades 4-8)	Elementary Education (Grades P-5) Middle Grades Education (Grades 4-8)* P-12 Education (Grades P-12)* Secondary Education (Grades 6-12)* *pedagogy-only
<b>Format</b>	Blended (combination of online and on-campus instruction)	Blended (combination of online and on-campus instruction)
<b>Location(s)</b>	Early Learning and Development: Atlanta, Douglas County, and Henry County Elementary/Special Education: Atlanta, Douglas County, Henry County, and Macon Middle Grades Education: Douglas County and Henry County	Elementary Education: Atlanta and Henry County Middle Grades Education: Atlanta P-12 Education: Atlanta and Macon Secondary Education: Atlanta and Macon
<b>Completion Time</b>	24-48 months, depending on transfer credits	Elementary Education: 18-24 months Middle Grades Education: 18-24 months P-12 Education: 12-24 months Secondary Education: 12-24 months
<b>Course Credits Required</b>	120 hours, depending on transfer credits <i>Includes 17 hours of field experience</i>	Elementary Education: 37 hours Middle Grades Education: 31 hours P-12 Education: 31 hours in Atlanta; 30 hours in Macon Secondary Education: 31 hours in Atlanta; 30 hours in Macon <i>Includes 13 hours of field experience</i>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	High school diploma/GED 2.5 GPA or higher	Bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (degree in education is not required) 2.5 GPA or higher Successful completion of GACE assessments
<b>Start Terms</b>	January, March, May, August, October	Atlanta: January, March, May, August, October Henry County: Foundation courses begin in May, and core courses begin in August. Macon: January and May

Mercer University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Education programs that lead to teacher certification are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).



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## CONTACT US

### Adult Undergraduate Admissions (B.S.Ed.)

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enroll@mercer.edu

### Graduate Admissions (M.A.T.)

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**education.mercer.edu**

**Schedule an Appointment ►**

