

GaPSC Certificate Upgrade Rule 505-2-.41
Transition Plan for New Fields of Certification
Version 3 of 05/17/11; Posted 09/30/11

This transition plan is intended to honor existing programs in the fields of Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership until new GaPSC Certification and Preparation rules are adopted, and the GACE content assessments are developed, validated and implemented. It is also intended to give institutions time to revise programs and acquire state approval. State approval must be granted by the state in which the institution is administratively based and is required of all programs leading to a new field of certification.

During the grandfathering period for the three new fields, existing programs similar in name or content to Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology and Teacher Leadership degrees will be honored. Please see examples below of names of degrees we are accepting in each of the three fields.

Instructional Technology: Specialization in Classroom Integration of Technology, Educational Technology, Technology in Education, Technology Integration, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning, Technology in Schools.

Curriculum and Instruction: Teaching and Learning, Accomplished Teaching, Curriculum Studies, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching, Curriculum Instruction Management and Administration

Teacher Leadership: Instructional Leadership

In the three fields of Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership, the certificate upgrade grandfathering period will be extended until January 15, 2013, for existing programs offered by in-state (Georgia) or out-of-state institutions. Until January 15, 2013, institutions may continue to admit students, and completers of these programs will earn a certificate level upgrade regardless of state approval status. All existing programs in Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, or Teacher Leadership must cease to enroll new students after January 15, 2013. All candidates enrolled by January 15, 2013 must complete all Master's degree and Specialist degree program requirements by September 1, 2015, and all Doctoral degree program requirements by September 1, 2017. Upon completion candidates will earn a certificate level upgrade but will not be eligible to add the new field. New programs in the fields of Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership will be designed according to standards and requirements set forth in GaPSC Preparation and Certification Rules and guidelines slated for adoption in late 2011. It is anticipated that new programs will be approved and may begin admitting students by the fall semester of 2013. Timelines for development of standards, GACE content assessments, and new program development are described in the chart on page two of this document.

Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership certificates will be classified as P-12, Service fields. Admission to these programs will require certification in a leadership, teaching, or service field. Master's degree programs in the new fields must include a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours (or the quarter hours equivalent) of advanced level coursework in which candidates are focused on advancing their knowledge and skills related to their certificate field(s). These hours may be satisfied through advanced pedagogy courses in which candidates are required to demonstrate advanced pedagogical skills related to their field(s) of certification. Three of the twelve semester hours may also be satisfied through a thesis focused on the content knowledge of a certificate field held by the educator. Programs at the Specialist or Doctoral degree level must include a minimum of nine (9) semester hours (or the quarter hours equivalent) of advanced level coursework focused on the content or content pedagogy of a certificate field held by the educator. All nine hours may be satisfied through advanced pedagogy courses in which candidates are required to demonstrate advanced pedagogical skills related to their field(s) of certification, or these hours may be satisfied through work on a thesis, research project or dissertation directly focused on a content field held by the educator.

GaPSC Timeline for phasing out existing programs and phasing in new programs in the fields of Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership

	An Educator can Complete an Existing Program to Upgrade a Certificate			In order to Upgrade Certificate AND Add a New Field the Educator must complete a New Program and Pass the GACE Content Assessment					
	Last date to enroll in an existing program	Existing Master's and Specialist degree Programs must be completed by	Existing Doctoral degree Programs must be completed by	New program standards developed and approved by Commission by	New Preparation & Certification Rules Effective by	IHE new program development and internal approval processes concluded by	GaPSC program approval review	New programs may begin as early as	GACE Content Assessment development concluded by
Curriculum & Instruction	January 15, 2013	September 1, 2015	September 1, 2017	July 2011*	January 2012*	June 2012	Fall 2012	Summer 2013	TBD
Instructional Technology	January 15, 2013	September 1, 2015	September 1, 2017	February 2011	October 2011*	June 2012	Fall 2012	Summer 2013	TBD
Teacher Leadership	January 15, 2013	September 1, 2015	September 1, 2017	April 2011	October 2011*	June 2012	Fall 2012	Summer 2013	TBD

* Dates are tentative

Notes:

- The term “enrolled” is defined as admitted and actively engaged in coursework.
- Existing Master’s degree and Specialist degree programs in Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership must sunset by September 1, 2015.
- Existing Doctoral degree programs in Curriculum & Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Teacher Leadership must sunset by September 1, 2017.
- The term *sunset* is meant to imply cease to operate.
- The program name appearing on transcripts must include the GaPSC field name.
- GACE development can begin as soon as program standards are approved by the Commission. The process may take up to two years. With programs starting in the summer of 2013, completion will not be likely before summer 2015, leaving ample time for completion of the assessment development and validation process.