

PARA TO TEACHER PROGRAM



The Para to Teacher Program is a teacher preparation pathway created to support current and new paraprofessionals who are interested in completing a teaching degree. The program allows candidates to continue working as paraprofessionals, while taking coursework. With the current shortage of teachers, this program helps to fill the gap. Candidates will need to apply and be accepted in the Teacher Education program first, before applying to the Para to Teacher Program.

- **100% online coursework**
- **Earn College Credits**
- **Field Placement within your school**
- **Two years program**
- **Leads to GA certification**
- **Classes start in the fall semester**

Who should apply?

- current paras who want to pursue a teaching program
- juniors and seniors in the education program
- anyone with an associate degree and is pursuing a para job

How & When to Apply?

Application Due Dates:

- Spring Semester Application Deadline (no later than 30 days prior to Spring Semester Drop/Add)
- Fall Semester Application Deadline (no later than 30 days prior to Fall Semester Drop/Add)
- Late applications may be considered. Please contact the Para-to-Teacher Program Coordinator, Dr. Annmarie Wright: (annmarie.wright@ung.edu).
- **Application Link:** https://ung.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0jlrM0iEX9NT3E

Application Expectations:

- Teacher candidates applying to the Para-to-Teacher Program who are already in the COE- Elementary-Sped program will need to have a good standing status in the program.
- It is recommended that teacher candidates applying for the Para-to-Teacher Program have a GPA of 3.00. Teacher candidates with GPAs under a 3.0 will be on an academic plan so that we can help them be successful.

Application Review Process:

- Once the teacher candidate's application has been submitted, a committee will review the application.

- Teacher candidates will be notified of the committee's decision within 28 days of submitting the application.

Courses:

- Teacher candidates interested in applying to the Para-to-Teacher Program should register for online courses ONLY.
- Teacher candidates' course schedules and format cannot be changed after the drop/add period ends.
- If a teacher candidate plans on applying for the program, the teacher candidate should reach out to the Para-to-Teacher Program Coordinator, Dr. Annmarie Wright: (annmarie.wright@ung.edu).

Applying for Para Positions in School Districts

- The Para-to-Teacher Program Coordinator must be informed of the teacher candidate's interest in applying to the program before the teacher candidate seeks a teaching position.
- Teacher candidates must inform the Field Placement Director, Ms. Raquel Johnson, once they have selected the school districts of interest. Please email coefex@ung.edu for information to determine if the school district of interest will require the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). An MOU must be in place prior to the teacher candidate being hired.
- Para-to-Teacher Program candidates must inform their potential employers of UNG's Para-to-Teacher Program Guidelines. Note: Teacher candidates who are new to a paraprofessional role should not sign a contract for a paraprofessional position before sharing UNG's Para-to-Teacher Program Guidelines with the future employer.

ELE-SPED Field Placement Expectations

- Teacher candidates in the Para-to-Teacher Program are expected to complete all program requirements. This include:
 - PreK-K placement (minimum of 60 hours)
 - 1st-3rd placement (minimum of 60 hours)
 - 4th-5th placement (minimum of 60 hours)
 - (3) SPED placements (minimum of 60 per placement)
 - **Note: While 60 hours is the minimum, if at all possible, the teacher candidate should continue to collect as many hours as possible in the targeted placement. This will allow the teacher candidate to attain additional knowledge and skills for that setting.**
- Teacher candidates must be assigned to mentor teachers who meet the GaPSC mentor teacher requirements.

- Teacher candidates will be assigned a university supervisor by the COE.
 - Teacher candidates will need to be in good standing throughout their time in the ELE-SPED program.
- **Meeting Grade Band Requirements:**
 - Teacher candidates in the Para-to-Teacher Program may meet the 60 hours for each grade band in any of the following creative ways:
 - completing grade band requirements in the classrooms in which they are working;
 - switching with another para to meet grade band hours requirement;
 - meeting and working with students during their planning period per grade band;
 - meeting and working with students during students' specials per grade band and or,
 - allowing current seniors with additional hours beyond 120 total as a junior to use the hours toward their SPED placement as a senior.
- **Special Education Field Placement Requirements:**
 - **Working in an Adapted Curriculum Setting:**
 - If teacher candidates are hired as a para in an adapted curriculum setting, there will need to be specific considerations, including the following:
 - The school should be willing to release teacher candidates to satisfy the grade band requirements per the program.
 - Teacher candidates cannot complete their final internship requirement for student teaching (15 weeks or 600 hours) in an adapted curriculum setting.
- **Satisfying Special Education Requirements:**
 - Teacher candidates can satisfy their SPED placement requirement in the following settings:
 - Resource
 - Self-Contained
 - Push-In SPED
 - Co-Teaching
 - EIP (Juniors ONLY)
 - IRR
 - Skills Based Autism

- Inclusion
- The Futures Program

- **Final Internship:**

- If the teacher candidate is using an adapted curriculum in their classroom, the teacher candidate cannot use this setting for final internship/student teaching placement. **The teacher candidate can only complete their final internship/student teaching in a setting using a general curriculum.**

- **ELE-SPED Course Expectations**

- Teacher candidates are expected to successfully complete all program courses as listed in the ELE/SPED Plan of Study. If a teacher candidate cannot successfully complete course requirements, they may need to be placed on a modified schedule that will allow for scheduling changes to the typical course sequence. Note: If a teacher candidate is placed on a modified schedule, a Professional Development Plan (PDP) will be developed.
- Teacher candidates of the ELE-SPED Paraprofessional to Teacher Program will be administratively registered for online ELE-SPED courses.
- Teacher candidates can register for face-to-face courses, if the courses do not conflict with work hours.

For Q/A:

Contact:

Dr. Annmarie Wright- Para to Teacher Coordinator

Email: annmarie.wright@ung.edu

Accessibility Statement

If you need this document in an alternate format for accessibility purposes (e.g. Braille, large print, audio, etc.), please contact Annmarie Wright at annmarie.wright@ung.edu or 678-717-2367.