

A Guide for the NGCSU English Education Major, 2010-2011

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This Guide will answer many of your questions, help you decide which courses to take, and explain the English Department's Plans of Study. You'll probably need to read this over more than once, and refer to parts now and again.

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Getting Started

First, get the most recent *Undergraduate Bulletin* from the Admissions Office in Price Hall (and also available online at NGCSU's web site, along with texts of earlier editions.) Although our programs change often, you'll typically have to fulfill the requirements as they're described in the version of the *Bulletin* that was current when you began your program. Consult the index of the *Bulletin* for answers to your questions.

The School of Education (Dunlap 214) will have other important documents and forms, including the *Teacher Education Handbook*, also available on the Teacher Education web page.

Also read the Admission Requirements for the Teacher Education Program and contemplate the implications of these. (For example, are you willing to give the University permission to search for your criminal records?) You'll find requirements and other pertinent information in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, early in the chapter on the Teacher Education program.

Get a copy of the appropriate Plan of Study form, called the "Plan of Study for BA Degree in English with Teaching Certification," at the English Department office (Dunlap 303); it's also online in the English department's web page.

Begin filling in your Plan in pencil, using it to plan your semester schedules. Most core courses are offered every semester. The English and Education departments offer required upper-division courses on a rotating schedule. See the English and Education web pages for those.

As you'll see, the English Education major's Plan of Study lists over 130 academic hours of required courses; many students take more. For example, the Plan doesn't include – or require – a minor. If you want to add a minor or take other courses that aren't required, you'll take more courses than those in the Plan.

With or without a minor, many English Education students take more than four years to complete their degrees. If you want to finish your degree in four years, you'll need to take more than 15 hours many semesters, or attend school one or more summers, or do some of each.

If you're transferring courses from another school, the University Registrar evaluates your transcript and decides if a transferred course meets our requirements. If you disagree with the Registrar's decisions, you may appeal by submitting a memo presenting your case, including documentation about the course (e.g., a syllabus or a letter from the instructor) and the course description from the other school's catalog. See, on the University web site, the Registrar's documents on "Transfer Evaluations" and "Transfer Student Advisement."

Most transfer students find that they have taken courses that do not apply to their NGCSU degrees.

Core Courses (Areas A through F)

This section is for those pursuing an English Ed. degree as their first degree. Post-baccalaureate and graduate students need not worry about a core curriculum; just take the courses on your plan of study.

Using the index of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, find the pages on the "Core Curriculum" for information about Core requirements, including lists of all acceptable courses that fulfill these requirements. These courses are usually offered both fall and spring, and many are offered in summers. You may also take UNIV 1000 (the Freshman Experience course), and many students find it helpful, but it doesn't fulfill Plan of Study requirements.

If you completed your Core at another school in the University System of Georgia and haven't changed majors, your Core is considered completed at NGCSU. Core courses cannot be counted twice in minors, except courses in Area F. (And, in general, courses may not count twice for any other requirements.) The Registrar answers questions about such matters.

Area A: You must pass ENGL 1101 and 1102 and your Math course (either MATH 1101 or 1111) with a grade of C to be admitted to the Teacher Education program. MATH 1101 is recommended for Education majors.

Area B: PSYC 1001, your leadership course, fits here, as does the 1002 course in the modern language you chose.

You may test out of early language courses, in which case you may substitute ENGL 2111 or 2112 or POLS 2401. Because these courses may also be used in other areas of the Core Curriculum, it is important to remember that courses may not be counted twice in the Core.

Area C: This area includes the first of five required English 2100-level survey courses; the other four survey courses will count in other parts of your Plan of Study. (All the available survey courses are listed in the "Core Curriculum" section of the *Bulletin* and described in the chapter on course descriptions.) To decide which survey courses to take, read the section of this Guide titled **Frequently Asked Questions**.

For the second course in Area C, there are several good choices. Because English teachers will sometimes teach speech, one particularly good option is COMM 1110, Public Speaking.

Area D: See the “Core Curriculum” section of the *Bulletin* for a list of acceptable courses. Take two lab-based science courses (each includes a three-hour lecture and a one-hour lab) and a third three-hour course which, for English Ed. majors, should be MATH 2400, statistics.

Area E: Take HIST 1112, Survey of World History/Civilization II, and one of the listed courses in U.S. history or government. Choose two other Area E courses following instructions in the “Core Curriculum” section of the *Bulletin*. Take no more than six hours in any one department.

Physical Education: There is no longer a physical education requirement, although you may take such courses as electives.

Military Science: If you are required to be, or if you choose to be, in the Corps of Cadets, you’ll complete thirteen additional hours in this area. Otherwise, you don’t have to take these courses.

Area F: See, in the *Bulletin*, instructions under “Major in English with Teaching Certification” in the chapter on the English department for a list of courses you can take for this area.

Typically, students must take 12 hours in a modern language for their English Education degrees, completing at least a 2002 course. If you have tested out of a 1000-level language course, see, in the *Bulletin*, the section “Major in English with Teaching Certification” for a list of other courses that may be taken for the “restricted elective.” You should strongly consider taking ENGL 2050, Standard Grammar (a prerequisite for 3050 (the Applied Grammar course), as your restricted elective, unless you can test out of it. The 2100-level literature survey courses (discussed in **Frequently Asked Questions**) also apply in Area F.

The English Major

In the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, the chapters on the Department of English have more information, including course descriptions, which now appear in the back of the bulletin. The English web page has the rotating schedule of upper-division courses, and English offers some upper-division courses every summer.

You may take English courses in any order, except for prerequisites, as specified in the *Bulletin*. At this writing, you must pass all of them with a C or better – except for two prerequisite courses that must be passed with a B or better: ENGL 2050, Standard English Grammar, and ENGL 2230, Intermediate Composition.

Finish more 2100-level survey courses. Take ENGL 2230 (Intermediate Composition), 2050 (Standard English Grammar), and 3050 (Applied English Grammar). Take Grammar your junior year or before – don’t postpone it.

Take either 4411 (Chaucer) or 4441 (Milton). Take one of the Shakespeare courses: ENGL 4431 (tragedies, romances), 4432 (histories, comedies), 4435 (selected plays and poetry). Also take ENGL 4950 (Composition Studies for Teachers). If 4950 cannot be offered, we’ll permit you to take another course.

Take one of these genre courses: ENGL 3220 (poetry), 3230 (novels), 3240 (short stories), or 3250 (world drama), or 3300 (mythology). English majors are typically strong in prose fiction and need to study one (or more) of the other genres.

Choose an upper-division British literature course, numbered somewhere from 3400 to 3499 or 4400 to 4499. Choose an upper-division American literature course, numbered somewhere from 3600 to 3699 or 4600 to 4699. We offer one or more each summer.

Education Courses

In the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, see the chapter on Teacher Education for much more information about this part of your program. Read closely the several sections on the School's policies and expectations, and also read the School's handbooks on teacher education and the internship. See the School of Education web site for important forms and documents.

You must apply for admission to the Teacher Education program before the Fall of your third year, which means you must begin preparing your application well in advance, including arranging three references. Check current deadlines in the Education portion of the web site.

You can take EDUC 2110, 2120, and 2130 in any order and concurrently, but you must pass these courses with a C or better to be admitted to the Teacher Education program. If you are enrolled in one of those three courses when you apply, Teacher Education may accept you provisionally. After admission, you must also pass all your later Education courses with a C or better to earn your degree and receive certification.

After you have been admitted, you'll take Education courses in a prescribed sequence with your cohort (i.e., with the other students admitted when you were), because Education offers the courses only once a year. (See the Education web page for course rotations.) If you can't take a course during the term it's offered to your cohort, you'll be a year behind, and you may have trouble getting in when the course is offered again.

These courses include the "block" courses, EDUC 3002, Assessment, and EDUC 3003 and 3003L, Classroom Management. Then you'll take LART 3040, Teaching Reading. Meanwhile you'll finish core courses and take more courses in English.

You'll also begin an approved eighty-hour service learning project, which you should finish before you begin your teaching internship in your last semester. See the *Bulletin* and the web site for more about service learning.

In your fourth year, you'll take EDUC 4000, Curriculum, and ENGL 4901, Teaching English, along with anything else you need to take to finish, and, as part of 4901, you'll build a professional portfolio. (Notice that ENGL 3050, Applied Grammar, is a prerequisite for 4901.) In Spring you'll do your internship (student teaching) and take EDUC 3540, Applied Data Analysis.

See the *Internship Handbook* and application form, both on-line in the Education web page, for information about your teaching internship. And attend the Internship seminars, offered by Education before, during, and after your internship.

Exams: Regents and GACE

All Education majors must pass the Regents' Exams and GACE I before being admitted to the Teacher Education program.

At this writing, most students have to take the Regents' Exams during their first semester in college. To take the Exams, sign up on-line. There is no charge. Your ENGL 1101 teachers will tell you more about the Regents' Exams, and there is also information on the University's web site, at the page for the Testing Office. You may be exempt from one or both parts of the Exams because of certain test scores; see the Testing web site.

For admission to the Teacher Ed. program, you must also take and pass the three GACE I basic skills tests (reading, writing, and mathematics). To take GACE I, during your sophomore year get application forms from the Dept. of Education. There is a charge for the exam, which is offered several times each semester on campus. You may be exempt – again, see the Testing web site.

To qualify for certification, you must take and pass two GACE II tests, the English Test I (020) and II (021). No pedagogy test is necessary. You'll take these in your next-to-last semester. To apply, get forms from Education.

GACE II enables the state to determine if prospective teachers know their subject matter well. Secondly, GACE scores help universities evaluate how well their departments are preparing their students. GACE II does not exempt Post-baccalaureate or graduate students from any courses.

All the GACE tests include multiple-choice questions and essay questions. At the site <http://www.gace.nesinc.com> there is some information about the design of each test (i.e., the kinds of knowledge and skills assessed on each test) and also advice and materials on preparing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can you recommend an alternate track? Yes, if you can devote the years to it, take a B. A. degree in English or a closely related field and then do a Post-baccalaureate in English Ed. to get certification.

Or take a B. A. in English and then earn a Master of Arts in Teaching.

Both routes will take longer than an English Ed. degree by a year, or so, but if your first degree is in English, you'll finish with a stronger preparation in your field, and you'll have certification to teach. And scheduling is easier because you're not completing two majors (English and Education) at once.

See a later section for more on both paths.

Which 2100-level surveys should I take? You're required to take at least one World Literature or British Literature course. You may take any of the other survey courses listed under Area C in the section on the "Core Curriculum" section of the *Bulletin*, for a total of five survey courses.

You will probably teach American literature, including African-American literature, often; choose your surveys with that in mind.

Also keep in mind that, as an English teacher, you may be called upon to teach world, British, and American literature. And early literature (ancient and medieval) is often the most difficult

for students (and it's covered least in our upper-division courses), so you should probably take at least one early World or early British survey to help you understand and teach these works.

Many literature surveys are offered both fall and spring; some are offered in the summer.

If you've read widely, you might consider taking a CLEP test to earn credit for an American or English literature survey. Search the NGCSU web site for information on CLEP tests.

What will *this* course be like? The best way to learn about a specific course is to talk to the professor who will teach it and to students who have taken it previously.

How can I learn more about the Education side? See the School of Education's web page for much more information, including application forms and the *Internship Handbook*.

Which upper-division electives should I take? Consider your future responsibilities: As an English teacher, you will constantly teach writing. You'll also teach a good deal of nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature, mostly American and British literature. You'll teach many short stories, many poems, some drama (including Shakespeare), and some novels.

With that in mind, we'd strongly recommend that you take another writing course if possible, especially ENGL 3130, Advanced Composition. The better your own writing is, the more likely you are to teach it well. And, should you decide to leave teaching (as some teachers do), your writing will be one of your most marketable skills.

Evaluate your own knowledge and take a course or two in areas you're weak in. For example, if you aren't very good at analyzing poetry, take Poetry and Poetics (ENGL 3220), even if you've already taken a genre course. If you're weak in British literature, take a course in one or more major British periods (for example, ENGL 3470, Literature of the Victorian Era). Many students find ENGL 4690, Southern Literature, to be an American lit course that's helpful in teaching.

Remember, no undergraduate leaves school knowing it all. You'll have to do a lot of reading and research during your career, and, as you discover your weak areas, you can take courses in the evenings and the summer (and spend your breaks in the library) to learn more.

What do I need to know about Modern Language requirements? You may take your 2001 and 2002 courses out of sequence (i.e., take 2002 before 2001) if that helps with scheduling. If your high school work allows you to skip 1001, then you only have to take nine hours.

Can I take courses on-line? In some cases, yes, depending on what's available currently, but check carefully first: Talk with the Registrar (and see Course Transfer Equivalencies on our web site), especially if you're taking courses from other schools.

Who can I get to be my references? Talk to people who know you well and have a good impression of you. This may include employers and supervisors at work, high school teachers and coaches, or pastors. It's probably not a good idea to ask University teachers if you haven't been in touch with them for a year or more, or if you didn't do well in their courses.

Why is the Teacher Education portion of my program so much more regimented than the content portion? Teacher Education has a much bigger job, wrangling many more students who are preparing for many different careers (administration, early childhood, middle school, and so

on), and coordinating all of that with a number of public school systems, all while making sure each student meets the state's specific and frequently changing requirements.

It isn't easy, and, as a result, making allowances for individual circumstances is usually difficult and often impossible.

Why does NGCSU require so many courses for an English Ed. degree? For decades, the American public has complained about ill-prepared teachers who don't know their content areas well. As a result, many universities (but certainly not all of them) have raised standards. The fact is that the English Department would require you to take more English courses if we could, and we hope to require more in the future.

If you prefer to take your degree at a school that requires fewer courses for an Education degree, that's your choice. But you should realize that such a program may not prepare you as well to pass the GACE II test, and, likewise, it may not prepare you as well for teaching.

How do I get my Plan of Study approved? At the beginning of your junior year (i.e., before you complete 90 semester hours), fill out your entire Plan of Study form, including tentative dates for taking courses in the future. (There may be some guesswork in this step. But you're allowed to modify your approved Plan as you go along.) Then get the necessary signatures, and then the English Department photocopies the completed form and sends it to the Registrar.

Why is it so complicated? You're getting the equivalent of two majors, one in English, one in Education. You have to meet the general requirements of the University system (the core curriculum), and the expectations of two academic departments, the state government, accrediting agencies, and (in some cases) the federal government.

Anything else? Keep your English textbooks, especially the anthologies from your literature survey courses. They will be invaluable references during your teaching. Besides, you don't get that much money back by selling them.

Summary: Year by Year

First Year: Complete as many of the prerequisites for admission to Teacher Education as soon as possible, including the three Area A courses, and begin the sequence of EDUC 2110, 2120, and 2130. Immediately after ENGL 1101 and 1102, take a 2100-level survey (several are offered in the summers), so you can take upper-division English courses the following semester. Take the Regents' Exam. Start your modern language courses.

Second Year: Take a mix of upper-division English courses and core courses, including Area F. Finish EDUC 2110, 2120, and 2130. Take GACE I and prepare to apply for admission to Teacher Education before Fall of your third year. Find three people who will be your references. After you are admitted to Education, begin your service learning project. Continue your modern language courses.

Third Year: You've been admitted to the Education program. Finish your core. Take as many required upper-division courses in English and Education as you can. If possible, finish your modern language requirement. Take EDUC 3002, 3003, 3003L, and 3106. Continue your service learning project. Before you've earned 90 hours, complete and sign your Plan of Study, get the

required signatures, and have the English Department send it to the Registrar for approval. Take the grammar courses this year if not before.

Fourth Year (and beyond): Take EDUC 4000 and ENGL 4901 in the fall. Finish your major requirements and your service learning project. Get professional liability insurance. (Education will tell you more about that.) Apply early for your teaching internship, which you'll take in spring, along with EDUC 3540. Find out about deadlines for applying for graduation and ordering your diploma – these deadlines arrive early. Also during your first semester, apply for and take GACE II. Apply for certification. Begin your job search. Complete your internship. Graduate. Get a job. Teach. Sing. Dance. Make merry.

Post-Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs

Post-Baccalaureate: If you have a bachelor's degree in English or a related field, you can earn certification in English Education by completing course work in Education. See the Teacher Education web page. You can also talk to the English Ed. advisors.

Graduate: if you have a previous bachelor's degree in English with no certification, you have the option of earning a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. See the Teacher Education web page and the English department advisor for more information.

Also, if you have an English Education degree and want to earn a graduate degree in English Ed., you may want to consider North Georgia's M. Ed. degree. See the Education web page for more information.

Useful Phone Numbers

English Dept.: Dunlap 303, 706 864-1775. Fax: 706 864-1485.

English Dept. advisors for English Ed. majors: Dr. Steven Brehe (706 864-1349) and Dr. Joyce Stavick (706 864-1964). Fax: 706 864-1485. E-mail: sbrehe@northgeorgia.edu, jestavick@northgeorgia.edu.

Teacher Education (Dunlap 214): 706 864-1533. Fax: 706 867-2880.

Post-baccalaureate advisor, Education: Mrs. Barbara Dixon, 706-864-1600.

Graduate Admissions (102 Price Memorial): 706 864-1543;
e-mail: graduateadmissions@ngcsu.edu.

MAT advisor, Education: Mrs. Deborah Hartman, 706-867-2963.

Graduate advisor, English: Dr. Wendy Kurant-Rollins, 706 867-3218; email, wkurant@northgeorgia.edu

More Information for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Applying to Teacher Education: See the NGCSU web page on Teacher Education, especially the page on Admissions and Certification.

Admission Standards for Grad School: See the *Graduate Bulletin*.

Graduate Admissions: Call 864-1543, or see the NGCSU web page on Teacher Education Graduate Programs.

The GRE or MAT test for entrance to Graduate Studies: See www.ets.org.

Endorsements: Endorsements are additional certifications in subjects like English as a Second Language. You can add endorsements to your education degree if you take more courses, which are often available in the summers. See the Teacher Education web page.

Summer Classes: On the NGCSU web page, see the Class Schedule. Schedules are usually available one or two semesters in advance.

Browse state job openings for teachers at <http://www.teachgeorgia.org>.

Good luck!