Teachers Academy

Handbook of Policy and Procedures

Barbara Levin, Director 12/1/2013



This handbook contains the most recent versions of the policies and procedures adopted by members of Council of Program Coordinators to be followed by all members of the Teachers Academy. In all cases, University policy supersedes these policies.

Policies are also detailed in the Teacher Education Handbook

Policies Procedures Re-affirmed or Approved, 4/6/13, 11/23/13 **Policy Requiring a Criminal Background Check:** Students applying to any licensure program must complete the Criminal Background Check Form All students seeking entrance to a licensure program must request a criminal background located on the OSS website at http://oss.uncg.edu/formsapplications/ submit it check as part of the application process. The School of Education Associate Dean will as part of their application. examine any findings made in connection with The Director of OSS will advise students of any the background check and conduct any further findings as a result of the background check. investigation deemed necessary to determine whether a student will be allowed to continue in the program, and if so, under what circumstances. Policy on Admission to Teachers Academy for Admissions requirements vary by program. **Undergraduates:** Candidates should know program specific requirements. This information is available on a 2.5 overall GPA or higher, their department websites, handbooks of their passing scores on the Praxis I tests, SAT or ACT licensure programs and/or in the UNCG other program-specific requirements for Undergraduate Bulletin. admission Candidates should also speak with their advisors about admission requirements. Candidates should apply for admission to Teacher Education at the end of their sophomore year. All candidates should be admitted no later than the first semester of their junior year. Candidates must request background check Policy on Admission to Teachers Academy for Candidates must request background check **Transfer students** should apply to Teacher Education when they are admitted to the university if they have completed General Education Courses. Transfer students who do not meet all requirements for admission to Teacher Education must complete at least 12 semester hours at UNCG with a GPA 2.5 or better, earn the required scores on the PRAXIS I reading, writing, and mathematics tests, and complete departmental requirements. Policy on Admission to Teachers Academy for Candidates must complete an online **Graduate students:** application for admission to the M.Ed. or M.A. Applicants must hold a Bachelor's Degree and Program from the Graduate School at 241 a major that meets the requirements of the Mossman Building or online at master's program. www.uncg.edu/grs. Deadlines for admission vary by program Candidates must request background check The graduate licensure program will review The department will notify the Office of candidates' GPAs and GRE scores, along with Student Services that candidates have been

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other required documents, in making a	admitted to a M.Ed. program.
decision about admission.	. 0
Admission to the graduate program	
constitutes admission to Professional	
Education.	
Policy on admission to Teachers Academy for	Follow application procedures (outlined in the
undergraduate alternative licensure-only in Art,	Teacher Education Handbook)
Birth-Kindergarten, Professions in Deafness,	Candidates must request background check
Health & Physical Education, Music and Theatre	Section 2
Arts.	
Candidates must have a major or at least 24	
semester hours that are relevant to the	
teaching licensure area North Carolina passing	
scores on the Praxis II exam(s) in the licensure	
area.	
A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required for	
admission in most disciplines. (Several	
disciplines require a GPA of 2.7 or higher.)	
Candidates who do not meet the GPA	
admission requirement may be eligible for	
admission if they:	
 Had a GPA of 3.0 in their major or 	
 Had a GPA of 3.0 in their senior year or 	
 Had a GPA of 3.0 in 15 credit hours 	
related to their teaching field that they	
took after completing their	
undergraduate degree program and	
within the last five years	
Policy on admission to Teachers Academy for	Candidates must complete an online application
graduate alternative licensure-only (NCTEACH	for admission to the M.Ed. or M.A. Program
program) in Middle Grades Language Arts, Math,	from the Graduate School at 241 Mossman
Science & Social Studies; Secondary English, Latin,	Building or online at www.uncg.edu/grs.
Mathematics, Science & Social Studies; French and	Candidates must submit a criminal background
Spanish.	check as part of their application.
A GPA of 3.0 is required with strong letters of	Candidates are reviewed for admission by the
recommendation.	program coordinator, the chair of teacher
Candidates are expected to maintain a	Education and Higher education, and the
minimum overall GPA of 3.0 to be eligible to	NCTEACH advisor/Director of Graduate Studies.
continue in the program.	The department will notify the Office of Student
Candidates must have a teaching position in	Services that candidates have been admitted to
their content area at an NCDPI accredited	a M.Ed. program.
school by the first week of classes for the fall	If admitted on a provisional basis (GPA below
semester that they begin their clinical	3.0) then candidates MUST earn a B or better in
experience seminar experience.	the first two graduate level courses to remain in
A successful year of lateral entry teaching in a	the program.
public school is a requirement for both	All candidates must provide proof of
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licensure and a co-requisite for some of the NCTAEACH courses. Candidates must have a major or at least 24 semester hours that are relevant to the teaching licensure area in North Carolina and passing scores on the Praxis II exam(s) in the licensure area to be recommended for licensure. Policy on provisional admission and re-admission to undergraduate programs: Undergraduate candidates who are admitted provisionally must meet the requirements outlined on their provisional admission letters within the stated time period in order to continue in the program.	 professional liability insurance throughout the program. Candidates' teaching placements must be within 50 miles of UNCG. Ration of teacher to students must be at least an average of 1 to 15. Candidates must submit a copy of the North Carolina teaching license to the Office of Student Services. Each program area includes details about its policies on provisional admission and readmission in its program handbook
Policy on provisional admission and re-admission to graduate programs (MAT, M.Ed. and PBC):	Example from MAT in Elementary Education
Graduate-level candidates who are admitted provisionally must meet the grade requirements outlined on their admission letters within the stated time period in order to continue in master's and post-baccalaureate programs.	 program: Generally, a GPA of 3.0 is required, but decisions are made on an individual basis. Some students with lower GPAs may be admitted provisionally. The provision is to maintain 3.0 GPA in all courses during the first semester in the program. If the provision is met, the student gains full admission to the program. If not, the student must leave the program. Re-admission to the program will be considered after one year. Any changes in the program must be met by re-admitted students.
Policy on Re-Admission to Teacher Education: Students may be re-admitted to a licensure program if the program coordinator determines if they can fulfill all the requirements of the program. Policy on Professional Liability Incurences.	 Applications for students seeking re-admission to a licensure program must be reviewed the program coordinator to determine if they can fulfill all the requirements of the program. Students seeking re-admission to a licensure program after withdrawing for personal or medical reasons may be re-admitted as soon as they are able to fulfill all the requirements of a program. If dismissed for cause from a program, students must wait one year to re-apply to any licensure program.
 Policy on Professional Liability Insurance: All candidates enrolled in courses that include 	• Students must provide proof of having current \$1,000,000 in Professional Liability insurance
field experience are required to purchase	to the Office of Student Services (OSS) before

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professional liability insurance <i>prior</i> to starting any internship, practicum, or student teaching experience. Professional liability insurance should be in effect for each course that requires a field experience, as well as during student teaching. In instances in which a student causes damage or injury during the field experience or student teaching, neither the University nor the state of North Carolina will be responsible for providing legal defense for that student or for paying for any judgment which may be entered against the student.	 they can participate in any field experiences sanctioned by their program. Evidence of having current \$1,000,000 in Professional Liability insurance must be in place and will be checked by OSS every semester that students are placed in UNCG-required activities that involve children in schools or community agencies. Instructors will be notified no later than the second week of the semester of any students without liability insurance, and students must be removed from UNCG-required activities that involve children in schools or community agencies until such time as they show proof of having current \$1,000,000 in Professional Liability insurance
 Grade Appeals Policy: All licensure programs under the Teachers Academy must adhere to the university's grade appeal policy. 	 UNCG's grade appeal policy can be found at: http://web.uncg.edu/reg/Bulletin/Current/AcaReg s/Grading.aspx If a student wishes to appeal an assigned grade, the student should first discuss the concerns with the instructor. If desired, the student may further appeal to the Department Head and the Dean of the School. Grade Appeals will be considered only in the most exceptional circumstances, and are approved only in cases where the evidence strongly supports the student's claim. Appeals must be filed no later than the first six months after the grade has posted.
 Policy on Student Complaints: Written student complaints will be directed to and logged electronically by the School of Education Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Services. Policy regarding Orientation for Licensure Students: All candidates for initial teaching licensure are required to attend a Professional Education Orientation before student teaching. Policy for Admission for Student Teaching: In order to be eligible to student teach, the 	 The School of Education Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and The Office of Student Services will receive any written student complaints and will keep them in an electronic log. The Office of Student Services is responsible for arranging student orientations, contacting students, and maintaining copies of students' signed forms indicating they were informed of Teachers Academy and OSS policies. Late applications may be approved on an individual basis.
candidate must have been <u>admitted to Teacher</u> <u>Education by the deadline noted below.</u>	

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November 1 of the year before fall student	
teaching.	
February 15 of the year before spring student	
teaching.	
Undergraduate candidates must have the	
minimum GPA required by the licensure	
program. Graduate students must have a 3.0 GPA.	
Policy re Professional Dispositions for Initial	
Teaching Licensure Candidates:	
Initial teaching licensure candidates must	
receive a score of 3 or better on a six-point	
scale in all categories on the <i>Candidate</i>	
Dispositions Assessment Process (CDAP) in	
order to be recommended for licensure.	
Lower scores require candidate's successful	
completion of a behavior intervention plan, as	
described in the <i>Professional Improvement</i>	
Policy (PIP).	
Policy on Ethical Behavior:	Violations of law will be dealt with by the
 Candidates must adhere to <i>University of North</i> 	appropriate governmental body. When a student's
Carolina at Greensboro Academic Integrity	behavior is deemed unacceptable by school or
Policy and Student Code of Ethics, the Code of	university personnel but subject neither to the
Ethics for North Carolina Educators and public	UNCG codes or policies nor to law, the
school laws of North Carolina.	Professional Improvement Policy (PIP) will govern
Students who violate the UNCG Academic	the disposition of the concerns.
Integrity Policy and/or the Student Code of	
Conduct will be subject to the sanctions	
outlined and published by the university.	
Policy for Qualifications for Student Teaching:	
 Candidates must complete departmental and Teacher Education pre-requisites for student 	
teaching or receive a waiver before they are	
eligible to student teach.	
Individuals who transfer to UNCG must	
complete appropriate coursework at UNCG	
prior to students teaching. Exceptions require	
the permission of the program coordinator	
and the Director of the Office of Student	
Services.	
Policy for Evaluation during Student Teaching:	
Candidates' clinical performance will be	
evaluated by UNCG faculty and the	
cooperating teacher (also called clinical faculty	
or On Site Teacher Educator or OSTE) at least 3	

Policies	Procedures
times using the <i>Teacher Growth and</i>	
Assessment for Preservice (TGAP) rubric.	
Candidates must receive a score of 3 or better	
on a 6-point scale for every criterion at the	
end of student teaching/final internship in	
order to be eligible for a recommendation for	
licensure.	
and	
Candidates' clinical performance will also be	
evaluated by UNCG faculty and the	
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cooperating teacher at the end of student	
teaching/final internship using the North	
Carolina Certification of Teaching Capacity.	
Candidates must receive a rating of "met" in	
all categories in order to be eligible for a	
recommendation for licensure.	
Policies for Lateral entry teachers	Candidates must receive a score of 3 or better
Lateral entry teachers must successfully	on a six point scale at the end of student
complete at least one year as a lateral entry	teaching/final internship in order to be eligible
teacher in the licensure area.	for a recommendation for licensure.
 Lateral entry teaching serves in place of 	In addition, candidates must have a letter from
student teaching.	their principals that states that the candidates
Their clinical performance will be evaluated by	successfully completed one year in their
UNCG faculty and/or school-based faculty or	licensure areas and would be re-hired barring
administrators at least three times using the	budgetary restrictions.
Teacher Growth and Assessment for	Summative evaluations by school
Preservice (TGAP) rubric.	administrators must show ratings of proficient
All lateral entry teachers are required to take	on all standards.
and pass the Praxis II exam(s) in their licensure	
area(s).	
Policies re PRAXIS Exams:	Several degree/licensure programs also
 Passing scores on PRAXIS II tests are required 	require Praxis II. Candidates should check with
by the State for the Standard Professional I	their education advisors.
License (the entry level license) in elementary	Candidates in programs that require Praxis II
education and special education.	
	must register for, take and pass the licensure
All lateral entry teachers are required to take and pass the Prayis II evam(s) in their licensure.	area exam(s) in their teaching area(s) before
and pass the Praxis II exam(s) in their licensure	applying for licensure.
area(s).	Candidates should take Praxis II exams during
	the semester prior to student teaching (or
	according to the schedule recommended by
	the licensure program advisor).
	Candidates who are required to submit
	passing Praxis II scores must do so in order to
	be recommended for licensure.
Policy re Teaching Portfolios:	Program instructors will explain the
All candidates will compile and submit their	development and submission of the portfolio.

Policies are also detailed in the Teacher Education Handbook

maintain the minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher if that is required by their licensure programs. In

Policies Procedures portfolios via TaskStream[®]. The content of the portfolio will be evaluated using departmental assessments that are The Teaching Portfolio must be submitted and receive a passing evaluation before a aligned the appropriate standards. (For example, for initial teaching licensure, the candidate can be recommended for North content must be aligned with the North Carolina teaching licensure. The contents of the portfolio for initial Carolina Teacher Candidate Evaluation Rubric. Faculty and public school cooperating teachers teaching licensure must demonstrate the use the Teacher Growth and Assessment for candidate's proficiency in meeting the North Preservice rubric, the North Carolina Carolina Professional Teaching Standards and Certification of Teaching Capacity and the licensure area content standards, proficient Candidate Professional Dispositions Process in clinical performance and acceptable evaluating the candidate, as well. Evaluation professional dispositions. forms for initial licensure candidates can be Candidates for a Master's degree must also found in the appendices of the Teacher provide evidence of meeting the North Education Handbook.) Carolina Standards for Graduate Teacher Candidates. The university supervisor or other department personnel report the evaluations to application processor in the Office of Student Services. Candidates are required to subscribe to TaskStream using their personal credit cards, and to maintain the subscription until they have completed their licensure requirements. Policy re eligibility for licensure: Candidates for initial licensure must demonstrate proficiency with all of the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards via evidences posted on Taskstream. Candidates for initial licensure must receive a score of 3 or better on a six point scale in all categories on the final administration of the TGAP and CDAP in order to be recommended for licensure. Candidates for initial licensure must receive a rating of "met" on all items on the North Carolina Certification of Teaching Capacity (COTC) used to evaluate candidates' clinical performance at the end of student teaching/final internship. Candidates who are lateral entry teachers will follow the requirements as outlined by their advisors or program documents. Undergraduate candidates for a degree and licensure, and for licensure-only, must

Pol	icies	Pro	ocedures
	addition, they must earn a C or better in a		
	minimum of 24 semester hours and/or passing		
	scores on Praxis II in their content/licensure		
	areas.		
•	Graduate candidates for a master's degree and		
	initial licensure (MAT programs) must maintain		
	a 3.0 and receive no more than two Cs, and		
	meet the requirements for the TGAP, CDAP		
	and Praxis II, as appropriate for their		
	programs.		
	Graduate candidates for a master's degree and		
ľ	advanced licensure (M.Ed. programs) must		
	maintain a 3.0 and receive no more than two		
	Cs.		
•	Candidates for advanced (M) licensure must		
	demonstrate proficiency with all of the <i>North</i>		
	Carolina Standards for Graduate Teacher		
	Candidates via evidences posted on		
	Taskstream.		
•	Post-baccalaureate certificate candidates must		
	maintain a 3.0 and receive no more than one		
	C.		
•	Graduate-level candidates who are admitted		
	provisionally must meet the grade		
	requirements outlined on their admission		
	letters within the stated time period in order		
	to continue in master's and post-		
	baccalaureate programs.		
	icy on Qualifications of Cooperating	•	The UNCG Placement Coordinator, and other
Tea	chers/OSTEs (aka On-Site Teacher Educators):		who make placements, will make every effort
•	Teachers must meet all the qualifications		to place UNCG students with teachers who
	established by the North Carolina Department		represent the diversity of the BK-12 student
	of Public Instruction and the district in which		population in North Carolina.
	they teach to be eligible to supervise UNCG		
	student teachers.		
	icy on selection of placements for field	•	The UNCG Placement Coordinator, and others
exp	eriences:		who make placements, will make every effort
•	UNCG has a strong preference for placing		to place UNCG students in urban, rural, and
	interns and student teachers in diverse		suburban locations; in settings with English
	settings with strong leadership and inclusive		learners; in settings with a majority of minority
	practices. Preferred placements include		students; in inclusive settings, in low-
	schools and agencies that provide our students		performing schools, and in Title I schools.
	with experiences working with diverse		
	students and teachers. Diversity may include		
	race/ethnicity, SES, language, and location		
	(e.g., urban, rural).		

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Every course related to licensure is evaluated by students every time it is taught.	 Instructors should use the student course evaluation forms and/or questions approved by their department or unit. Evaluations below expectations will be addressed appropriately by the Department Chair. Departments will aggregate these data in electronic form by program area and course. Aggregated data is used by programs for continuous self-improvement as appropriate.
 Policy on the Schedule for Student Teaching: Generally, student teaching assignments coincide with the university calendar, i.e., begin as classes begin for the semester and end during final exam week. The schedule may be adjusted when doing so is in the best interest of the B-12 students or the student teacher's clinical experience. 	
 Policy on Attendance and Extended Absence during Student Teaching: Absence from the student teaching assignment is excused only in cases of serious illness or emergency. Absences exceeding five days must be made up before the student can be given credit for the course. Student teachers are not expected to make up days when the schools are closed because of inclement weather or other emergency situations if make-up days would occur after the last day of university examinations for the semester. 	
Policy on Illness and Other Emergencies during Student Teaching: The student teacher should notify the principal and/or cooperating teacher and the university supervisor as soon as possible regarding absences due to illness or other emergencies.	During the initial interview with the principal and cooperating teacher, the student teacher should learn the policy for notification of absence required by that particular school or school system.
When circumstances are such that withdrawal from a student teaching assignment is necessary, whether because of illness, other personal reasons, or upon the written request of the principal or the university supervisor, university policy and procedures regarding withdrawal from a course shall be applicable. The Director of the Teachers Academy must	 Should problems or concerns arise during the student teaching placement, the candidate should inform his/her university supervisor and should seek ways to resolve the situation as quickly as possible. Candidates are reminded that involuntary withdrawal is not in their best interest. Candidates who are asked to leave a student teaching placement may have difficulties being

Policies	Procedures
approve a request for withdrawal.	accepted for a second placement.
 Policy on Extra Activities for the Student Teacher during Student Teaching: Because program requirements and candidates' needs vary, it is each department's responsibility to monitor closely those activities in which their student teachers are engaged and offer counsel and guidance where necessary. A candidate may be asked to withdraw from student teaching if his/her department determines that the "extra activities" are unduly influencing or negatively impacting the candidate's student teaching and/or the candidate's student teaching performance is unsatisfactory. 	The Teachers Academy strongly recommends that student teachers have no other major obligations during this period.
Under special circumstances, students may be approved to student teach under the supervision of another college or university.	 Students who must teach outside of the usual UNCG student teaching area must seek prior approval of their program coordinator and the Director of the Teachers Academy, who will seek a field placement. The student will be responsible for the usual tuition and fees, as well as additional fees that may be assessed by the host school
 Policy regarding Transportation: Student teachers are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from their assigned schools. 	
Policy regarding Substitute Teaching:	Procedures regarding substitute teaching:
Approval to substitute teach may be granted after following the procedures:	 The candidate must have completed the substitute teaching application process required by the school and school district and must have the approval of the university supervisor. For short term substitute teaching (1-3 days) The candidate may email or otherwise contact his/her university supervisor for approval. The supervisor will inform the Director of Teachers Academy. The candidate may substitute only for his/her cooperating teacher. For long term substitute teaching (more than 3 days) The candidate must obtain a letter of approval signed by the principal, cooperating teacher and university supervisor and forward this

Policies	Procedures
Policy regarding Lateral Entry Teaching: • Lateral entry teachers are required to complete the requirements for licensure that are prescribed by their licensure programs. They must also successfully teach for one academic year in their licensure area, which clinical experience replaces student teaching. In some cases, lateral entry teachers may have teaching assignments in other licensure areas. However, 50% or more of their teaching responsibilities must be in their licensure	letter to the School of Education Office of Student Services; The candidate must successfully complete any training and paperwork that is required by the school district for substitute teachers; The candidate must obtain written guarantees of continued university and on-site supervision during the substitute teaching position; The university supervisor must forward all letters of approval, support and guarantees regarding supervision to the Director of Teachers Academy for final approval; The candidate must remain enrolled in the student teaching course; The candidate must successfully complete all licensure program requirements, including the teaching portfolio; and At the end of the student teaching course, all evaluations and forms that are required for candidates must be completed and submitted to the university supervisor.
content. Policy for Student Appeals:	Students wishing to appeal a
Students have the right to appeal a program/departmental decision.	 program/departmental decision should send a statement or letter that describes the concern under appeal to the Department Chair. The appeal will be reviewed to determine whether the issue is one that may be appealed. Assuming the concern may be appealed, the student will be notified and an investigation will be conducted. The student will be notified in writing about the decision.

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	 Students wishing to appeal the department decision should send a statement or letter that describes the initial concern to the School of Education Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Student Services. The last level of appeal would be submitted to the Teachers Academy Steering Committee by way of the Director of the Teachers Academy.
Policy re Annual Faculty Reports:	
 All faculty and lecturers teaching in licensure programs will complete their department or unit annual faculty report form. 	
Policy regarding Student Services such as	
The Office of Student Services will handle advising and make referrals for counseling as need for students in licensure programs housed in the School of Education. All other licensure programs will handle advising and counseling referrals.	
UNCG supervisors and/or program coordinators will make a recommendation to the Placement Coordinator regarding the continued use of cooperating teachers each semester.	 University supervisors and/or program coordinators will respond to a survey - from the Placement Coordinator regarding their recommendation to continue or not continue using cooperating teachers. Recommendation will be based on conversations with cooperating teachers, observations in the field, feedback from teacher candidates, and principal recommendations, as well as consideration of our policy about placements for field experiences. Programs may collect additional information about cooperating teachers to aid their decision making.
Policy for the evaluation UNCG supervisors:	 Program Coordinators and/or Department Chairs will respond to a survey from the Placement Coordinator regarding which University supervisors will be designated/hired each year. Recommendation will be based on conversations with university supervisors, feedback from faculty and/or other supervisors, feedback from teacher candidates, and the needs of the program.

Policies	Procedures
Under development	
Policies: Governance & Operations of Unit Under development: The current version of the Instrument of Governance is under revision as of Dec. 2013.	
 Policies, practices & procedures re diversity Recruitment of diverse faculty Experiences w/diverse faculty Experiences with diverse students Recruitment of diverse students 	Recommend policy state that faculty and students mirror UNCG's diverse student population and that recruitment policies make this the goal.
Other related practices	
 Supervisors during Student Teaching: We have extensive Guidelines/Parameters for the duties and expectations of Cooperating Teachers, School Principals, and University Supervisors during Student Teaching. However, these do not constitute a single policy regarding Supervisors during Student Teaching. 	RECOMMEND: Each program area include any policies and/or guidelines required for <u>Supervision of Student Teaching</u> in its program handbook.
Guidelines/Parameters for Activities during Student Teaching: • We have extensive Guidelines/Parameters for recommended practices and activities during Student Teaching but they do not rise to the level of being a policy	RECOMMEND: Each program area include any policies and/or guidelines required for Required Activities during Student Teaching in its program handbook.