

UWG Teaching Fellows Program

TEACHING FELLOWS APPLICATION

What is the Teaching Fellows Program?

The Teaching Fellows Program is an intense, rigorous induction program for **first-year teachers** who hold a Georgia T4 Early Childhood Education teaching certificate. Research confirms that the first year is the most crucial year because it lays the foundation for teaching success. In fact, the first year experience greatly influences whether a teacher chooses to remain, or not remain, in the profession. Schools often assign mentors to support new teachers, but time constraints limit the amount of assistance actually provided. The Teaching Fellows Program uniquely creates a way to undergird the first-year teacher with timely, frequent, mentor support. At the same time, the Fellow strengthens his/her professional knowledge and skills by completing a master's degree program in Early Childhood Education.

Why become a Teaching Fellow?

- You will be mentored by a master teacher who spends the equivalent of one-half of every working day interacting with you and one other Fellow in your school.
- You will earn a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education, tuition-free, in one year (four semesters; summer, fall, spring, summer).
- You will enhance your ability to engage in reflective practice as you apply your graduate studies directly to your everyday classroom work.
- You will be enrolled as a full-time University of West Georgia graduate student (i.e., you will be eligible for health insurance, student loans, etc.).
- You will work collaboratively with another Fellow on your campus and with all Fellows in your cohort group. These academic relationships will increase professional collaboration that will strengthen your success as a teacher and personal satisfaction with the teaching profession.

How does the program work financially for Fellows?

- Tuition for the Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education is free.
- You will earn a \$13,000 stipend for the year, paid in equal installments over 10 months, beginning in August. (Note: You will earn the stipend instead of a first year teacher's salary).
- You will move to the Master's Degree pay scale after completing your Fellows Program, beginning your second year of teaching at the master's level.

What courses do Fellows take?

Twelve courses (36 credit hours) comprise the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Building on the foundation of your undergraduate experience, the master's program will strengthen your understanding of how to translate theories of learning and educating young children into your daily work. Attention will be given to developmentally appropriate practice within each of the core subject areas, with an emphasis on promoting children's literacy development. You will learn to read and analyze educational research such that you can choose appropriate strategies for strengthening teaching and learning within your own classroom. Reflective practice, thinking deeply about your role as an educator and how you craft your professional work, will be a common thread woven throughout your graduate program.

Where can I find more information?

Contact Dr. Kent Layton by phone at 678-839-6570 or via email at klayton@westga.edu, or speak with Ms. Kaye Ferguson at 678-839-6570, Senior Administrative Secretary, Dean's Office, Education Center.

Teaching Fellows Program Instructions for Completing the Application Process

What are the initial criteria for acceptance into the Teaching Fellows Program?

1. Bachelor's degree in early childhood or elementary education.
2. Hold a T4 Early Childhood teaching certificate or will be recommended for certification by June 1, 2006.
3. Undergraduate GPA of at least 2.7
4. Minimum score of at least 400 on the verbal portion of the GRE; minimum score of at least 400 on the analytical OR quantitative portion of the GRE, whichever is higher.

How does one become a Teaching Fellow?

1. Notify Ms. Kaye Ferguson, Senior Administrative Secretary, Dean's Office, at 678-839-6570, to declare your intent to submit a Teaching Fellows Program application.
2. Apply and be admitted to the UWG Graduate School (admission process described below).
3. Apply and be admitted to the Teaching Fellows Program. The applications for the Graduate School and Teaching Fellows Program are different applications; however, you should complete both at the same time.
4. Interview with partner school principal(s) and be accepted for placement in the partner school by the principal.

UWG Graduate School Admission Process:

Application forms may be obtained from the Graduate School office by calling 678-839-6419 or emailing the office at gradsch@westga.edu. Applicants may also apply online by going to the Graduate School's web page at www.westga.edu/~gradsch, clicking on "Admissions" and then clicking on "Online Application." Completed paper applications should be accompanied by a \$20 application fee (non-refundable). Individuals applying online should submit their application fee as soon as possible. The application fee may be submitted directly to the Graduate School office with a check or money order made payable to the University of West Georgia or applicants can call the Business Office at 678-839-6390 and pay by credit card.

Information about the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) may be obtained from the Graduate Office or through links found on the Graduate School's web page at www.westga.edu/~gradsch. Online testing is available at several Metro-Atlanta sites with official results available in 2-3 weeks. Expect to pay a test fee of approximately \$115 for online testing. The following non-inclusive list of test centers offer online testing:

1. Georgia State University Testing/Counseling Office, 106 Courtland Street, Room 309, Atlanta, GA 30303. (404) 651-3816.
2. 2220 Parklake Drive, Suite 310, Atlanta, GA 30345. (770) 493-9813.
3. 7099 Tara Boulevard, Suite 260. Co-located with the Sylvan Learning Center, Atlanta/Jonesboro, GA 30236. (770) 478-5356.
4. Sylvan Tech Center, 2337 Windy Hill Road, Marietta, GA 30067. (770) 980-1117.

Teaching Fellows Program Application Process:

1. Submit the application with the required additional documents (four bulleted statements below) to Kaye Ferguson, University of West Georgia, Dean's Office, College of Education, Carrollton, GA 30118. If you have questions, contact Ms. Kaye Ferguson at (678) 839-6570.
 - Unofficial university transcript(s)
 - Educational philosophy statement (typed, 600-800 words)
 - Copies of Block 3 evaluations from your university supervising professor and supervising (cooperating) teacher.
 - Two samples of work from your Teacher Education courses that provide evidence of your knowledge and understanding of the teaching/learning process.
2. **Three letters of recommendation (one must be from the supervising cooperating teacher). Letters should be mailed by the persons writing the recommendations; they should NOT be included in the application package assembled by the applicant. Inform those who write letters of recommendation to mail letters directly to Dr. Kent Layton, University of West Georgia, Dean's Office, College of Education, Carrollton, GA 30118.**
3. Interview with Teaching Fellows Program personnel.
4. Interview(s) with partner school principal(s) and accepted for school placement by the partner school principal and school system human resource director.

Personal Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Social Security No: _____

Email Address: _____

Current Address:

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Permanent Address:

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Alternate Contact Information (Please indicate a person who always will know your address (do not list spouse):

Full Name: _____ Telephone: _____

School District Choices: Rank order your school district choice for where you would prefer to teach during your Teaching Fellowship Program (1=most preferred choice, 4=least preferred choice). Note: Placement at a preferred school is not guaranteed.

- _____ Carroll County Schools
- _____ Carrollton City Schools
- _____ Coweta County Schools
- _____ Douglas County Schools

Personal Checklist:

Will you be available to take summer classes? You must enroll in Maymester classes (2006 and 2007) and Summer Session classes (2006 and 2007).

- 2006 Maymester (approximately mid-May to early June, 2006)
- 2006 Summer Session (mid-June to late July, 2006)
- 2007 Maymester (Similar dates as for 2006)
- 2007 Summer Session (Similar dates as for 2006)

Yes No

Will you graduate with your bachelor's degree by May 2006?

Yes No

Will you be recommended for certification (T4 Early Childhood Education) by June 1, 2006?

Yes No

Have you ever resigned or been discharged for committing a felony or for committing a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude (excluding minor traffic offenses), or for committing a breach of the code of ethics or for a violation of state education laws, or are you currently under investigation or otherwise have any such charges pending against you?

Yes No

Have you pled guilty, been found guilty, entered a plea of *nolo contendere*, been granted first offender treatment without adjudication of guilt, or been placed under a court order whereby an adjudication or sentence was otherwise withheld for any felony or for any misdemeanor offense involving moral turpitude (excluding minor traffic offenses), or is any such charge currently pending against you?

Yes No

Have you ever surrendered a professional certificate/credential/license/permit or had one denied, revoked or suspended, or is any investigation or adverse action now pending against you?

Yes No

Education (Begin with your most recent experience):

Name of Institution: _____

City and State: _____

Enrollment Dates (Inclusive): _____

Degree and Major: _____

Name of Institution: _____

City and State: _____

Enrollment Dates (Inclusive): _____

Degree and Major: _____

Name of Institution: _____

City and State: _____

Enrollment Dates (Inclusive): _____

Degree and Major: _____

Overall University Grade Point Average (GPA): _____

Internship (Student Teaching):

District: _____

School: _____

Grade Level(s)/Area(s): _____

School Telephone: _____

Supervising/Cooperating Teacher: _____

Dates of Student Teaching Experience: _____

Field Experiences:

District: _____

School: _____

Grade Level/Area: _____

District: _____

School: _____

Grade Level/Area: _____

District: _____

School: _____

Grade Level/Area: _____

District: _____

School: _____

Grade Level/Area: _____

Employment (beginning with most recent):

Position/Title: _____

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Dates: _____

Position/Title: _____

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Dates: _____

Position/Title: _____

Name of Employer: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Dates: _____

Beliefs and Experiences:

Describe or list any work or life experiences that will make you an asset to the Teaching Fellows Program (e.g., tutoring, camp counselor, related teaching experiences, innovative life or work experience, honors, distinctions, membership in professional organizations, scholarship, volunteer work, and so forth).

Include the following documents with your application. Your application package is not complete until you have assembled all of the following documents:

1. Unofficial university transcript
2. Educational Philosophy Statement (typed document limited to 600-800 words). Describe your beliefs about teaching and learning. Discuss how your beliefs will shape your classroom community.
3. Evaluations from your Block 3 university supervising professor and supervising (cooperating) teacher.
4. Two samples of your work from Teacher Education courses that provide evidence of your knowledge and understanding of the teaching/learning process. Examples might include a unit (sequence of lesson plans), letter written to parents, case study, classroom management plan, and so forth.

NOTE: The application package also requires three letters of recommendation (one must be from the supervising-cooperating teacher). Letters should be mailed by the persons writing the recommendations; they should NOT be included in the application package assembled by the applicant. Inform those who write letters of recommendation to mail letters directly to Dr. Kent Layton, University of West Georgia, Dean's Office, College of Education, Carrollton, GA 30118. If you have questions, call Ms. Kaye Ferguson, Senior Administrative Secretary, at 678-839-6570.

Acceptance into the Teaching Fellows Program is dependent upon admission to the UWG Graduate School. The applicant must interview with the Teaching Fellows Program personnel and be admitted to the Teaching Fellows Program. The admitted Teaching Fellow must also interview with the partner school principal and school system human resource director and be accepted for placement by the school system and principal.

I affirm that to the best of my knowledge, all information I have provided in this application is true and correct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
