*Upon completion of the program, students will meet state criteria for Level 1 certification in general education (elementary or secondary) AND special education (Mild/Moderate Disabilities) in their chosen area.
Alternative Teacher Certification Project (ATCP)

The Alternative Teacher Certification Project provides an opportunity for highly motivated mid-career changers and recent college graduates to obtain teacher certification licensure as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree. The goal of the project is to offer a pool of skillfully trained and qualified teachers while addressing the shortage of STEM teachers in high-need school districts in north Louisiana. Project completers will have the knowledge and skills to deliver standards-based instruction and promote high levels of achievement among diverse students.

Certification Areas

ATCP-MAT offers two certification areas:
- Elementary Education Integrated to Merged: Grades 1-5 is an intensive 42-credit hour program.
- Secondary Education Integrated to Merged: Grades 6-12 is an intensive 39-credit hour program offering certification in the following subject areas: Biology, Chemistry, English, General Science, Physics, Mathematics, or Special Education.

Incentives and Awards

Administered by the GSU College of Education, the ATCP stipend is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement Transition to Teaching program. The $4,500 stipend is available to mid-career changers or recent college graduates seeking certification in Biology, Chemistry, General Science, Elementary Education, English, Physics, Math or Special Education. Additionally, students will receive intensive professional development as well as technological devices that can be used in the classroom. The award process is highly competitive and students must commit to teach 3 consecutive years in a partner high-need school district.

*Upon successful completion of the program, students will meet state criteria for Level I certification in general education (elementary or secondary) AND special education (Mild/Moderate Disabilities).

Admission Requirements

Program entry requirements include:

1. Admission to GSU School of Graduate Studies & Research
2. Bachelor’s degree with at least 2.50 cumulative GPA
3. One of the following:
   - ACT score 22 or higher; SAT score 1030 or higher
   - Possess a graduate degree from any regionally accredited college/university
   - Passing Praxis I scores: Reading - 176, Writing, 175, and Math 175
4. Passing Praxis II scores in a specific content area: Elementary Education Grades 1-5, Secondary Education Grades 6-12 in Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, General Science or Physics. Passing scores vary according to the exam.
5. A completed ATCP Application Packet
   - Current resume, including work experience, leadership roles, community involvement, and past education/training
   - Official transcripts from all schools
   - A typed 500-1000 word personal statement addressing:
     - Why do you want to become a Teacher?
     - How you will use your previous experiences to ensure high academic achievement for your students?
   - Three letters of recommendations: at least one from an individual in supervisory position who can attest to your ability to work with elementary and/or secondary students
6. Official Copies of Test Scores