

Augusta State University's

Gifted Endorsement Program

Program Rationale:

Augusta State University (ASU) is committed to providing a four-course sequence that will empower candidates with the knowledge and skills essential for teaching gifted learners using exemplary instructional practices. Augusta State University has developed a Gifted Endorsement Program that correlates with national and state standards in gifted education. Such well-prepared teachers of the gifted will be proficient at assessing and evaluating data to make effective instructional decisions.

Program Purpose:

The purpose of the Gifted Endorsement Program at ASU is to prepare candidates to function as well-prepared teachers of gifted/talented learners. Candidates will:

1. Review historical and theoretical underpinnings of current beliefs and practices in gifted education.
2. Examine current research in gifted education and related fields of learning theory.
3. Identify the instructional needs of gifted learners from diverse backgrounds.
4. Plan, implement, and evaluate lessons for gifted/talented learners.

Course Descriptions:

ASU delivers a sequential gifted endorsement program that consists of four courses with accompanying field experiences.

The following courses are offered in the Gifted Endorsement Program at Augusta State University:

EDUC 6040- (3 semester hours) Tests and Measurements

This course is concerned with practical methods and procedures involved in the construction and evaluation of teacher made tests and the interpretation of test scores, as well as with the considerations involved in the selection and use of standardized tests. Special attention will be given to assessing the gifted/talented population of learners.

EDUC 6271- (3 semester hours) Identifying Outstanding Talents and Potentials in Students

This course is an examination of the nature of children and youth having high potential in multiple areas. This course includes consideration of definitions, characteristics, and identification measures of the gifted/talented as reflected in historical and contemporary theory and research. A focus on disparities in identifying specific subgroups will be addressed including at-risk and underachieving gifted.

EDUC 6272- (3 semester hours) Developing Outstanding Talents and Potential in Students

This course provides candidates an opportunity to develop and implement appropriately challenging instructional strategies and materials and to examine and critique teaching models specifically designed for meeting the unique educational needs of gifted learners.

EDUC 6273- (3 semester hours) Curriculum and Program Design for Developing Talents

This course provides candidates opportunities to explore administrative designs, conceptual programs, and approaches to provide qualitatively differentiated curriculum for the gifted and talented learner. Candidates will investigate current practices in both parallel curriculum planning and cross-curricular planning. Candidates will develop higher order instructional thematic units appropriate to gifted and talented learners.