

## Initial Teaching Certification Programs (BSEd, BME, MAT)

*This disclosure applies to the Bachelor of Science in Education, Bachelor of Music Education, and Master of Art in Teaching degree programs.*

The initial teaching certification programs at Mercer University are designed to prepare students for certification in the state of Georgia and are approved by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC), 200 Piedmont Avenue SE, Suite 1716, West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334-9032. Successful completion of one of Mercer’s programs plus passing scores on related GaPSC-approved Content Pedagogy and GACE Content Assessments leads to eligibility for a Level 4 induction certification.

Each state or territory regulatory body responsible for education dictates the requirements to obtain licensure or certification in that jurisdiction. Generally, the educational requirements are met when a student earns a degree from an accredited institution and passes associated tests or assessments. However, most jurisdictions require applicants already possess a license or certificate from the state where they completed their degree to be eligible. Additional conditions must often be met (e.g., a minimum GPA or specific professional development), and applications may require minimum scores on Praxis exams, background checks, etc. Each state board, agency, or department has the ultimate authority and discretion to determine whether professional licensure or certification will be issued.

The table below indicates, for each state or territory, whether Mercer’s programs meet or do not meet the educational requirements for initial licensure or whether Mercer has been unable to determine if the programs meet the state requirements. Please review the table below closely to determine if the programs meet the educational requirements in the state in which you reside or intend to seek licensure.

**Program Contact:** [Dr. Loleta Sartin](#)

U.S. State or Territory	Regulatory Body	Contact	Website URL	Meets educational requirements
Alabama	Alabama State Department of Education	(334) 694-4900	<a href="https://www.alabamaachieves.org/teacher-center/teacher-certification/">https://www.alabamaachieves.org/teacher-center/teacher-certification/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Alaska	Alaska Department of Education & Early Development - Teacher Certification Office	(907) 465-2831	<a href="https://education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification">https://education.alaska.gov/Teacher Certification</a>	Yes – for the initial provisional 2-year certificate.
Arizona	Arizona Department of Education	(602) 542-4367	<a href="https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/">https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Arkansas	Arkansas Department of Education	(501) 682-4342	<a href="https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/educator-effectiveness/become-an-arkansas-teacher">https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/educator-effectiveness/become-an-arkansas-teacher</a>	yes – for a provisional license.

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California	California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	(916)-319-0800	<a href="https://www.ctc.ca.gov/">https://www.ctc.ca.gov/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Colorado	Colorado Department of Education Licensing Office	(303) 866-6600	<a href="https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof">https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof</a>	Yes – must hold or qualify to hold a certificate in Georgia
Connecticut	Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Certification	(860) 713-6969	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/sdecertification?language=en_US">https://portal.ct.gov/sdecertification?language=en_US</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Delaware	Delaware Department of Education	(302) 735-4000	<a href="https://www.doe.k12.de.us/certification">https://www.doe.k12.de.us/certification</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education	(202) 727-6436	<a href="https://osse.dc.gov/ed-credentials">https://osse.dc.gov/ed-credentials</a>	Yes
Florida	Florida Department of Education	(800) 445-6739	<a href="http://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification">www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Georgia	Georgia Professional Standards Commission	(404) 232-2500	<a href="https://www.gapsc.com/">https://www.gapsc.com/</a>	Yes
Hawaii	Hawaii Teacher Standards Board	(808) 586-2600	<a href="https://hawaiiteacherstandardsboard.org/">https://hawaiiteacherstandardsboard.org/</a>	Yes – for a provisional license
Idaho	Idaho State Department of Education	(208) 332-6800	<a href="https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cert-psc/cert/">https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cert-psc/cert/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Illinois	Illinois State Board of Education	Springfield: (217) 782-4321 Chicago: (312) 814-2220	<a href="https://www.isbe.net/educatorlicense">https://www.isbe.net/educatorlicense</a>	Yes – applicant must have specific coursework addressing methods for teaching exceptional children, reading methods, content area reading, and methods of teaching English learners.
Indiana	Indiana Department of Education Office of Educator Licensing	(317) 232-9010	<a href="https://www.in.gov/doe/educators/educator-licensing/">https://www.in.gov/doe/educators/educator-licensing/</a>	No – unable to determine
Iowa	Iowa Board of Educational Examiners	(515) 281-5294	<a href="https://educate.iowa.gov/educator-licensure">https://educate.iowa.gov/educator-licensure</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.

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Kansas	Kansas State Department of Education	(785) 296-2288	<a href="https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-TL">https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-TL</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Kentucky	Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board	(502) 564-4606	<a href="http://www.epsb.ky.gov/course/view.php?id=3">http://www.epsb.ky.gov/course/view.php?id=3</a>	No
Louisiana	Louisiana Department of Education	(877) 453-2721	<a href="http://www.teachlouisiana.net">www.teachlouisiana.net</a>	Yes – for a 3-year Out-of-State (OS) certificate.
Maine	Maine Department of Education	(207) 624-6600	<a href="https://www.maine.gov/doe/cert">https://www.maine.gov/doe/cert</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Maryland	Maryland State Department of Education	(410) 767-0100	<a href="https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/pages/dee/certification/index.aspx">https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/pages/dee/certification/index.aspx</a>	Yes
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Office of Educator Licensure	(781) 338-3000	<a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/">http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/</a>	Yes
Michigan	Michigan Department of Education	(833) 633-5788	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/ed-serv/ed-cert">https://www.michigan.gov/mde/Services/ed-serv/ed-cert</a>	Yes
Minnesota	Minnesota Professional Education Licensing and Standards Board	(651) 539-4200	<a href="https://mn.gov/pelsb/aspiring-educators/">https://mn.gov/pelsb/aspiring-educators/</a>	No – unable to determine
Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Education	(601) 359-3483	<a href="https://www.mdek12.org/OEL">https://www.mdek12.org/OEL</a>	Yes
Missouri	Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	(573) 751-0051	<a href="https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification">https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification</a>	No
Montana	Montana Office of Public Instruction	(406) 444-3150	<a href="https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Licensure">https://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Educator-Licensure</a>	Yes – must complete the free online course “An Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana.”
Nebraska	Nebraska Department of Education	(402) 471-2295	<a href="https://www.education.ne.gov/tcert/">https://www.education.ne.gov/tcert/</a>	No
Nevada	State of Nevada Department of Education	Carson City: (775) 687-9115 Las Vegas: (702) 486-6458	<a href="https://doe.nv.gov/Educator_Licensure/">https://doe.nv.gov/Educator_Licensure/</a>	No

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New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Education Bureau of Credentialing	(603) 271-3494	<a href="https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-support-and-higher-education/bureau-of-credentialing">https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-support-and-higher-education/bureau-of-credentialing</a>	No – unable to determine
New Jersey	State of New Jersey Department of Education	(609) 292-2070	<a href="https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/">https://www.nj.gov/education/certification/</a>	No
New Mexico	New Mexico Public Education Department	(505) 827-5800 Option 1 or 2	<a href="https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/licensure/">https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/licensure/</a>	Yes
New York	New York State Department of Education Office of Teaching Initiatives	(518) 474-3901	<a href="http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/">http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/</a>	No – unable to determine
North Carolina	North Carolina Department of Public Instruction	(919) 716-1800	<a href="https://www.dpi.nc.gov/educators/educators-licensure">https://www.dpi.nc.gov/educators/educators-licensure</a>	Yes
North Dakota	North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board	(701) 328-9641	<a href="https://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure">https://www.nd.gov/espb/licensure</a>	No
Ohio	Ohio Department of Education	(877) 644-6338	<a href="https://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure">https://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure</a>	No
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State Department of Education	(405) 521-3337	<a href="https://sde.ok.gov/teacher-certification">https://sde.ok.gov/teacher-certification</a>	No – unable to determine
Oregon	Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission	by appointment only; see URL link	<a href="https://www.oregon.gov/tspc/LIC/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.oregon.gov/tspc/LIC/Pages/default.aspx</a>	No
Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Department of Education	(717) 787-3356	<a href="https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Pages/default.aspx</a>	Yes – applicants must have a minimum GPA.
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Department of Education	(401) 222-4600	<a href="https://ride.ri.gov/teachers-administrators/educator-certification">https://ride.ri.gov/teachers-administrators/educator-certification</a>	Yes
South Carolina	South Carolina Department of Education	(803) 734-8500	<a href="https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/">https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Education	(605) 773-3134	<a href="https://doe.sd.gov/certification/">https://doe.sd.gov/certification/</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Tennessee	Tennessee State Board of Education	(615) 741-5158	<a href="https://www.tn.gov/education/educators/licensing.html">https://www.tn.gov/education/educators/licensing.html</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.

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Texas	Texas Education Agency	(512) 936-8400 Option 2	<a href="https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification">https://tea.texas.gov/texas-educators/certification</a>	No
Utah	Utah State Board of Education	(801) 538-7740	<a href="https://schools.utah.gov/licensing">https://schools.utah.gov/licensing</a>	Yes – must hold an existing certificate/license.
Vermont	Vermont Agency of Education	(802) 828-3440	<a href="https://education.vermont.gov/educator-licensure">https://education.vermont.gov/educator-licensure</a>	Yes
Virginia	Virginia Department of Education	(804) 786-2302	<a href="https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure">https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/teaching-in-virginia/licensure</a>	Yes – additional training modules required.
Washington	Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board	(360) 725-6275	<a href="https://www.pesb.wa.gov/">https://www.pesb.wa.gov/</a>	Yes
West Virginia	West Virginia Department of Education	(304) 558-7010	<a href="https://wvde.us/certification/certification-info/">https://wvde.us/certification/certification-info/</a>	Yes
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	(800) 266-1027	<a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/licensing">https://dpi.wi.gov/licensing</a>	No
Wyoming	Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board	(307) 777-7291	<a href="https://wyomingptsb.com/licensure/becoming-licensed/">https://wyomingptsb.com/licensure/becoming-licensed/</a>	Yes – must be eligible for a certificate in Georgia.
American Samoa	American Samoa Department of Education	(684) 633-5237 or 5238	<a href="https://www.amsamoadoe.com/">https://www.amsamoadoe.com/</a>	No – unable to determine
Guam	Guam Commission for Educator Licensure	(671) 735-2554	<a href="https://gcec.guam.gov/">https://gcec.guam.gov/</a>	Yes – for a 3-year non-renewable initial certificate.
Federated States of Micronesia	FSM Department of Education	(691) 320 2609	<a href="https://www.national.doe.fm/teacher-certification/">https://www.national.doe.fm/teacher-certification/</a>	No – unable to determine
Marshall Islands	Republic of Marshal Islands Ministry of Education	(692) 625-5262 (692) 625-5261	<a href="https://pss.edu.mh/">https://pss.edu.mh/</a>	No – unable to determine
Northern Mariana Islands	CNMI State Board of Education	(670) 237-3061	<a href="https://www.cnmipss.org/state-boe-certification">https://www.cnmipss.org/state-boe-certification</a>	No – unable to determine
Palau	Palau Ministry of Education	(680) 488-6425	<a href="http://moe.epsolutions.pw/">http://moe.epsolutions.pw/</a>	No – unable to determine
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Department of Education	(787) 759-2000	<a href="https://de.pr.gov/">https://de.pr.gov/</a>	No – unable to determine

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US Virgin Islands	Virgin Islands Board of Education	St Croix: (340) 772-4144 St Thomas: (340) 774-4546	<a href="https://myviboe.com/">https://myviboe.com/</a>	Yes

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