

Approved by the State Board of Education  
January 12, 2021

**South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures**  
*Program Admission Requirements: Initial- and Advanced-level Certification Programs*

Each educator preparation provider (EPP) must demonstrate its commitment to the purposeful recruitment and admission of candidates who will progress through the preparation program successfully and have the potential to be effective in professional practice. In demonstrating this commitment, the EPP must ensure that candidates admitted to preparation programs leading to certification at the initial or advanced level meet the admission requirements of the institution, the specific program, and State Board of Education (SBE).

In recruiting and admitting candidates, the provider must meet the SBE-approved initial- or advanced-level national provider standards (i.e., accreditation standards) related to candidate recruitment and admission.

*Initial-Level Certification Programs: Undergraduate*

For full admission to an undergraduate preparation program leading to initial teacher certification, a candidate must

- meet the program admission assessment (i.e., basic skills assessment) requirement established by the State Board of Education (SBE) pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-20;
- complete at least 45 semester hours of college-level work;
- earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; and
- provide a disclosure statement of prior arrests and convictions to include felonies and misdemeanors.

The dean or director of teacher education has the discretion to approve admission of a candidate with a cumulative GPA as low as 2.5 if compelling evidence indicates that the candidate will be successful in the preparation program.

*Initial- and Advanced-level Certification Programs: Post-baccalaureate or Graduate*

Each provider offering post-baccalaureate or graduate educator preparation programs at the initial and/or advanced level must present evidence of admission requirements similar to other post-baccalaureate and graduate programs at the same institution. For full admission to a post-baccalaureate or graduate preparation program leading to initial teacher or advanced educator certification, a candidate must

- demonstrate academic proficiency as defined by the graduate school of the institution; and
- provide a statement of disclosure concerning all prior convictions to include felonies and misdemeanors.