



GSEHD

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020 EDITION

MASTER'S, EDUCATION SPECIALIST & CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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## **Mission Statement**

The Graduate School of Education and Human Development is committed to providing the highest quality education. We develop innovative research programs, contribute in diverse ways to local communities and the nation, and actively participate in the international community of scholarship. Our unique location in the nation's capital, a vibrant, multicultural and multinational center, offers a broad range of resources and opportunities to our diverse students and faculty. We believe that continuous self-examination and improvement are fundamental to the education and human development professions.

The mission has been translated into four bridging concepts that guide the work of the faculty in the design of programs:

- **Research and Scholarship:** Research and scholarship are prerequisite to the improvement of educational practice.
- **Leadership in the Educational Endeavor:** Leadership is critical in the development and design of education and human services at all levels.
- **Reflective Practitioners:** Building reflective practitioners through the integration of theory and practice is a priority of all programs.
- **Service to the Multicultural, Multinational, and International Community of Diverse Learners:** A community of diverse learners is prerequisite to success in the education and human service professions.

## **The Office of Student Life**

The Office of Student Life serves all students – past, present, and future – through advocacy, collaboration, innovation, and empowerment to enhance the overall GSEHD experience. Our team, which includes Admissions, Student Services, and Career Services, works together to support each student's success. Our office is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm; feel free to drop by, or make an appointment for a visit, Skype conference, or to call or email at any time with questions.

### **Rick Jakeman**

Associate Dean for Master's Studies & Student Life

### **Rebecca Vander Schaaf**

Director of Admissions

### **Rachel Dorfman-Tandlich**

Director of Student Services

### **Tyana Anglin**

Senior Career Counselor

## Admissions

GSEHD Office of Admissions  
2136 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20052  
202.994.9283  
[gsehdadm@gwu.edu](mailto:gsehdadm@gwu.edu)  
<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/admissions>

## Student Services

GSEHD Office of Student Services  
2136 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20052  
202.994.9283  
[gsehdosl@gwu.edu](mailto:gsehdosl@gwu.edu)  
<https://gsehd.gwu.edu/student-services>

## Career Services

GSEHD Office of Career Services  
2136 G Street, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20052  
[gsehdcareer@gwu.edu](mailto:gsehdcareer@gwu.edu)  
202.994.1179  
<http://gsehd.gwu.edu/career-services>

## Financing Your Education

### GSEHD Merit Scholarships & Endowments

GW provides merit-based scholarships and endowments to GSEHD incoming and current Master's and doctoral candidates taking courses on the Foggy Bottom (Main) Campus. For an updated list of scholarships and endowments and instructions on how to apply, please see our website at: <https://gsehd.gwu.edu/admissions/funding-your-graduate-education>.

### Program Partnerships and Grants

Some GSEHD programs have federally-funded tuition support/stipends and opportunities to work with faculty on sponsored projects as a result of faculty efforts to obtain research or training grant funds. Students should contact their faculty advisor for information on the availability of such funding.

### Non-University Fellowships

Fellowships are available from many different sources outside the University, including federal and state agencies, foundations, corporations, and professional associations. Most require early application, often as much as a year in advance. The University maintains information on these fellowships in the [Office of Graduate Student Assistantships and Fellowships](#).

### **Federal Loans, Work-Study, and Veterans' Benefits**

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) processes Federal Stafford Loans and awards Federal Perkins Loans and Federal Work Study based on both financial need and the availability of funds. Students should file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Stafford Loan Application and GW Loan Questionnaire no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> to apply for financial assistance for the following fall semester or academic year.

Additional information and application materials may be secured from the website of the [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) or by stopping by Colonial Central on the Foggy Bottom Campus.

### **Maintaining Federal Student Loan Eligibility**

Federal regulations require students to maintain good academic standing and make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to remain eligible to receive federal student loans. For more information on SAP please refer to the [GWU Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) website. The website also includes information on Evaluation of SAP and the appeals process.

### **Employment**

Many graduate students find employment within the GW community to help finance their education. Job listings are posted daily on the website of the [Human Resource Services Office](#).

Additionally, the [Career Center](#) website has listings for other part-time and full-time employment opportunities.

### **Cooperative Education**

Cooperative education allows students to integrate salaried, study-related work experiences into their academic programs. These competitive positions are available in selected public agencies and private corporations; they are not based on financial need. For additional information, visit the website of the [GW Career Center](#).

## Registration Policies and Procedures

### Registration

Once students have received their online admissions letter and have submitted the Student Reply Form, they will be eligible to register for classes.

Students register using the [GWeb Info System](#). Registration policies and procedures are described on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#).

Students are required to register each fall and spring semester. In most cases registration during the summer semester is optional, except for students in cohort programs. Students must be registered in the summer if they were admitted for the summer term, are taking the comprehensive examination, or are graduating in that term. Please see the section "Enrollment Status" for more information.

### Tuition Billing

Students will be billed for tuition by the Student Accounts Office after registering for courses. Course tuition rates for GSEHD students are determined by the program and the campus to which the student was admitted. For example, students admitted to Foggy Bottom campus programs pay the on-campus tuition rate for any courses they register for, regardless of course format or location. Tuition rates for students enrolled in graduate programs [can be found online here](#).

### Adjustments to Course Schedule

If a student finds it necessary to make any adjustments to his/her course schedule after the Web registration period has ended (to add or drop courses), a [Registration Transaction Form](#) is required. The completed form should be submitted to the students' GSEHD Student Services Representative. A note from an instructor is NOT an acceptable method of adding or dropping a course. Registration Transaction Forms are available [online](#) and in person at the GSEHD Office of Student Services and Colonial Central.

Students should be aware of the financial penalties of dropping courses during and after the first week of courses. A refund schedule with specific dates for each semester can be found on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#). Students should note that refund schedules for off-campus/distance programs and for all students during the summer semester have unique dates. The deadline for dropping an on-campus course without academic penalty is the end of the fourth week during the fall and spring semesters. A course dropped during the first four weeks of classes will not appear on a student's transcript. A course dropped after the fourth week but before the end of the eighth week will be assigned a grade of W (Authorized Withdrawal). Any withdrawals after the eighth week of classes require a petition to the Dean's Office.

Failure to submit a Registration Transaction Form and to receive approval to withdraw from a course will result in a grade of "Z" (Unauthorized Withdrawal) on the student's official transcript. Students may not be cleared for graduation with a Z on their academic history.

Students whose accounts reflect overpayments may submit a *Request for Refund* through the GWeb Information System beginning the first day of classes.

## Consortium Registration

The Washington Metropolitan Area Consortium of Universities is a cooperative arrangement in post-secondary education that is designed to permit the sharing of academic resources by member institutions and to offer qualified students the opportunity to enroll at other institutions for courses not available on their own campus. The George Washington University offers qualified graduate students the opportunity to enroll in courses at:

- American University
- The Catholic University of America
- Gallaudet University
- George Mason University
- Georgetown University
- Howard University
- Marymount University
- Trinity University
- University of the District of Columbia
- University of Maryland-College Park

Participation in the Consortium program is restricted to main campus (Foggy Bottom) degree candidates in good academic standing. Non-Degree students and students in off-campus programs are ineligible to take courses through the Consortium program.

Degree-seeking students may enroll in approved courses through the Consortium to the extent that the total number of credit hours does not exceed nine (9) hours for a Master's program.

Please refer to the policies and procedures for Consortium registration on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#)

**Registration Procedures:** Registration in Consortium courses must be requested on a [Consortium Registration Form](#). Consortium registration requires approval of the student's faculty advisor before submitting the form to his/her Student Services Representative for Dean's Office approval. Once the form has both sets of approvals, the Student Services Representative for the student's program will submit the form to the Consortium Director in the Office of the Registrar for final processing.

Students requesting to drop or withdraw from Consortium courses must obtain approval from their Department Chair/faculty advisor and their Dean's Office on the [Consortium Drop form](#).

**Tuition and Fees:** Tuition for courses taken under the Consortium arrangement is assessed at the current GW tuition rate. Course fees are charged by and paid to the visited institution. Dropped courses are subject to the on-campus refund schedule.

## Enrollment Status

Once enrolled in a certificate or degree program, students must be continuously enrolled and actively engaged in fulfilling the program requirements every fall and spring semester of the academic year until such time as the certificate or degree is conferred.



Students occasionally have a semester in which they are not enrolled in coursework, but are engaged in approved activities required for program completion (ex: taking the comprehensive exam or completing an incomplete course). There also are cases in which students may need to request a temporary leave for personal or professional reasons. In these instances, they will need to enroll in either Continuous Enrollment or Leave of Absence (explained further below) to remain in active status with the University.

Failure to enroll in either classes or one of the following designations will result in broken enrollment. Students who break enrollment are removed from degree status and must apply for readmission to continue. Students who apply for readmission to the University will be subject to the admissions standards in place at the time the application is submitted.

### **Continuous Enrollment (CE)**

Continuous Enrollment (CE) may be used for completion of outstanding work in courses in which a grade of Incomplete (I) was received. CE also may be used by degree-seeking certificate or Master's students who are preparing to sit for the comprehensive examination (See the *Comprehensive Examinations* section for more details). In certain circumstances, CE also may be used for attendance at another institution with prior approval to have coursework transferred back to GSEHD. International Students are not eligible to register for CE.

Students must submit a [Leave of Absence/ Continuous Enrollment Registration form](#) to their Student Services Representative to be considered for CE enrollment. Students only may be registered for a total of two (2) semesters of CE during the course of their certificate or degree program. Students who request one-year of CE must submit a [Leave of Absence/ Continuous Enrollment Registration form](#) for each of the two semesters. After reaching the limit, students who wish to register for CE status in additional semesters must seek approval from the Master's Appeals Committee.

### **Continuing Research (CR)**

All Master's students who are writing a thesis and who have completed their required number of thesis and coursework credits must register each subsequent fall and spring semester for a 0920-Continuing Research course, which carries a fee equivalent to one credit hour of tuition, until successful completion and submission of the thesis. All Education Specialist students must register for a 0920-Continuing Research course to sit for the comprehensive examination if not otherwise enrolled in coursework.

### **Leave of Absence (LOA)**

A student who, for personal reasons, is temporarily unable to continue their program of study may request a Leave of Absence (LOA) for a specific period of time, not to exceed two (2) semesters during the total period of certificate or degree candidacy. The student must submit a [Leave of Absence/ Continuous Enrollment Registration form](#) to their Student Services Representative to be considered for LOA enrollment. Students who request one year of Leave of Absence must submit a [Leave of Absence/ Continuous Enrollment Registration form](#) for each of the two semesters. After reaching the limit, students who wish to register for a Leave of Absence in additional semesters must seek approval from the Master's Appeals Committee.

Students who are U.S. government employees assigned out of the United States for official

duties or are in the military and actively deployed out are exempt from LOA limitations that count toward degree completion.

### **Full-/Half-Time Certification**

Students who intend to register for less than the number of credit hours required in the fall and spring semesters (full time = 9 or more credit hours; half-time = 4.5-8.5 credit hours), and who need to be certified as in full or half-time status must complete the [Full-/Half-Time Certification Form](#). The requirements and limitations of this certification are listed on the first page of the form. This form should be completed and submitted to the Office of Student Services after the student has registered and after the form has been signed by the faculty advisor.

### **Adjustments to GSEHD Program or Location**

If a student is considering a change from one GSEHD program to another GSEHD program, they should consult with their faculty advisor as well as with the coordinator of the program to which they would like to be admitted. To request a change to a new program, they must submit a new application for admission and a new statement of purpose relevant to the new program of interest. Additional application requirements may be required if deemed necessary by program faculty. An application fee is not required as long as the student has maintained continuous enrollment and is in good academic standing.

If a student is considering a change in the location of their program of study, they should be sure to confirm that the program is offered at the desired campus location. Note that the new campus may have a different schedule of classes as well as an adjusted tuition rate. The student should contact his or her academic advisor for more information.

Once the student and his or her advisor have come to agreement on a location change, they should notify the Office of Admissions in writing of this request.

### **Readmission to GSEHD**

To apply for readmission, students must submit a new application for admission by the application deadline for the semester in which they wish be readmitted. Former students must submit an updated statement of purpose, application fee, resume, transcripts of any recent graduate level coursework taken, and new standardized test scores (if requested). Also, former students are required to interview with the program faculty to determine whether they will be permitted to continue the program as indicated on the original program plan or if there will be additional program requirements to be completed. Subsequent readmission is subject to new conditions and regulations that have been established by the School. Any questions regarding the readmission process should be addressed to the Office of Admissions.

### **Withdrawing from the University**

If a student finds it necessary to withdraw from GW prior to completing their degree program, they should notify their faculty advisor and the GSEHD Office of Student Services via their Student Services Representative. A [Complete Withdrawal Form](#) should be submitted if the student wishes to withdraw from ALL courses during the final semester.

The deadline for complete withdrawal from ALL courses without academic penalty is the end of

the eighth week of classes. After this deadline, program changes are not possible unless the student submits a written request to the Office of Student Services and receives permission to withdraw. If approved, the student then submits the Complete Withdrawal Form to the Office of Student Services for processing.

All charges for courses from which the student withdraws are subject to the refund policy listed under [Tuition Rates, Fees, and Financial Regulations](#) on the website of the Office of the Registrar.

## Grading

### Grading System

GSEHD uses the +/- grading system. The available grades, with quality-point equivalents, are as follows: A (4.0), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3), B (3.0), B- (2.7), C+ (2.3), C (2.0), C- (1.7), F (0). Other symbols that may appear include CR, Credit; AU, Audit; I, Incomplete; IPG, In Progress; W, Authorized Withdrawal; Z, Unauthorized Withdrawal. Courses marked AU, CR, I, IPG, W, or Z are not considered in determining a student's grade point average, although courses marked *I and IPG* will be considered when a final grade is recorded, and the final grade will replace the symbol *I or IPG*.

### Academic Requirements

An overall grade-point average of 3.0 is required for graduation. Students who have a cumulative GPA below 3.0, or receive a grade of *C* or below in more than 6 credits, or receive a grade of *F* will have an academic hold placed on their account and may be subject to program removal. Students must meet with a representative of the Dean's Office before enrollment in further coursework is allowed.

Students who earn a grade of "Z" for "Unauthorized Withdrawal" must formally request to withdraw from the course before further registration is permitted, as students cannot graduate with grades of "Z" on their record.

### English Language Requirements for International Students

Applicants who are not citizens of countries where English is the official language or who do not hold a degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution of higher learning are required to submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the Pearson Test of English–Academic (PTE). English language scores are valid for two years. The most recent test scores will be used for applicants who submit multiple scores. Specified possible exemptions from this policy can be found on the [Graduate Admissions](#) website.

Students with the following English language test scores are exempt from taking English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses: TOEFL, 600 paper-based or 100 Internet-based; IELTS, overall band score of 7.0 with no individual band score below 6.0; PTE, 68. Students with test scores below these minimums must register for an EAP course during their first semester. Students assigned EAP courses should anticipate additional tuition expenses as well as a possible extended period of time required to complete their degree program. EAP courses do not count toward degree requirements.

Students required to take an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course must earn a minimum grade of B- in the course. Students who do not earn a B- or above in their first course must take an additional EAP course in the subsequent semester. Students who earn an F in an EAP course must repeat the course and are subject to the process described above.

### Grade Reporting

Grades will be available on the [GWeb](#) system after the close of each semester. Please note that grade reports are not mailed. Student records can be accessed on GWeb, including term grades and an unofficial transcript. A Gwid and PIN are needed in order to access the GWeb system.

#### *Incomplete (I) and In Progress (IPG) Policies*

At the discretion of the instructor, the symbol “I” (Incomplete) may be recorded if a student, for reasons beyond the student’s control, is unable to complete the work of the course, and if the instructor is informed of, and approves, such reasons before the date when grades must be reported. This symbol only may be used if the student’s prior performance and class attendance in the course have been satisfactory and if the student is in good academic standing.

If the instructor agrees to give the student an “I”, a [Contract for Completing Assignments in a GSEHD Course](#) must be completed and signed by both the student and the course instructor and then submitted to the Office of Student Services. The contract will outline all remaining assignments due and the date by which these assignments must be submitted to the course instructor. The coursework must be completed within the designated time period agreed upon by the instructor and the student, but no more than one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the course was taken. If the work is not completed within the designated time, the grade will be automatically converted to a grade of “F”, Failure, 0 quality points, and the grade-point average and academic standing recalculated. Please see Academic Requirements, page 13, which outlines next steps when a grade of “F” has been received.

In many cases students are required to take an internship as part of their graduate program. However, students often are unable to complete the required number of internship hours in one semester. In these instances, the instructor may assign an “IPG” (In Progress) for the course. Once all requirements are met, the instructor will change the “IPG” to “CR” or a letter grade.

### Provisional Admission Status

Students who have been admitted in provisional status must achieve an average GPA of 3.0 or better in their first 9 credit hours taken in degree status – with no grade below B-. A symbol of “I” (Incomplete), “IPG” (In Progress), or “Z” (Unauthorized Withdraw) is unacceptable during the provisional period.

The provisional status will be lifted once the student has successfully completed these requirements. Please note that the provisional status does not require the student to take all nine credit hours in his/her first semester.

Students in provisional status who do not meet the requirements of the provisional status within the first nine credits of coursework may be subject to academic discipline up to and including removal from the program.

## Program Plans and Transfer Credits

### Program Plan of Study

Each candidate for a certificate, Master's degree, or Education Specialist degree receives an official Program Plan of Study upon accepting his or her offer of admission. This plan provides students with information regarding their admission status and outlines the coursework and any additional requirements they will need to complete in order to graduate.

Students must successfully complete all courses and requirements and any deficiencies outlined on the official program plan to have their certificate or graduate degree conferred on the official GW transcript. In addition to completing all required coursework, degree programs preparing students for teacher licensure require completion of the Educational Testing Service PRAXIS teacher assessments as specified by the District of Columbia Public Schools, Educational Credentialing, and Standards Branch.

Students are encouraged to retain their program plan and refer to it frequently, as it is their contract with GSEHD. All Master's degree requirements must be completed within six years, whether study is full-time or part-time. An additional (or seventh) year is allowed in the case of a student who breaks enrollment and is subsequently readmitted. A maximum of five calendar years is allowed for completion of the Education Specialist degree program. All certificate program requirements must be completed within 3 years.

U.S. government personnel officially assigned out of the area and military personnel on active duty may exceed these limitations with faculty advisor approval.

### Adjustments to the Program Plan

To request a change in the program plan, students first should discuss the proposed change with their faculty advisor. If their advisor approves the change, a completed [Program Plan Change Form](#) must be sent by their advisor to the student's Student Services Representative for the record to account for this change during graduation clearance.

### Transferring to an Individualized Master's Degree Program

In consultation with an advisor, students may request to change their official Program Plan to a 30-credit Individualized Master's Degree Program. Students must meet the requirements of the Individualized Master's Degree Program as outlined in the [University Bulletin](#). This Program Plan change must be approved by the student's advisor and the dean.

### Residency Requirements

For Master's degree programs, a minimum of 30 graduate credits is required. A Master's candidate must earn at least 24 credit hours in degree status at GSEHD.

For the Education Specialist program, a minimum of 30 credits beyond the requirements for an M.A. in Education and Human Development is required. An Education Specialist candidate must earn at least 21 credit hours in degree status at GSEHD.

### Non-Degree Coursework and Transfer of Credit

Students who would like to take coursework at the Graduate School of Education and Human

Development but who have not been admitted to one of our certificate or degree programs may apply for admission as a non-degree student through the GW Office of Non-Degree Students. **Students may enroll in coursework at GSEHD in non-degree status for one semester only** (excluding the summer semester). Students interested in enrolling in additional coursework at GSEHD must submit a complete application packet to the GSEHD Office of Admissions by the published deadlines. Completing coursework as a non-degree student at the George Washington University does not guarantee admission to a GSEHD degree program. Students taking courses in non-degree status are subject to all numerical limits included in the section on Transferring Credits.

### **Transferring Credits into GSEHD Masters or Educational Specialist Programs**

Graduate coursework taken at another institution or earned at GW in non-degree status or while in another degree program at GW is considered transfer credit when applied towards any degree program at GSEHD and does not count towards residency requirements. Graduate coursework may be approved for transfer only if it meets **ALL of the following criteria**:

- It was taken at a regionally accredited college or institution
- It has been approved as part of the student's Program Plan of Study;
- It was completed within five years of the date of first enrollment as an admitted certificate, Master's or Education Specialist student;
- It was completed with a grade of "B" or better;
- It has not been used to fulfill the requirements of another degree program (specific exceptions regarding coursework completed in a GSEHD certificate program are outlined below).

Transfer credit limits: Students admitted to a GSEHD Master's degree program requiring completion of 36 or more credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 12 credit hours**.

Students admitted to a Master's degree program requiring completion of 33 credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 9 credits hours**.

Students admitted to a Master's or an Education Specialist program requiring completion of 30 credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 6 credit hours**.

The exception to this rule is students moving from a doctoral program to an Ed.S. or M.A. Students who move from a doctorate to an Ed.S. program are eligible to utilize any doctoral coursework approved by the advisor towards the Ed.S., regardless of the number of credits being applied.

### **Content or Transfer Coursework**

Content that is acceptable to the Program of Study through life experience (e.g., employment, military experience) is eligible for substitution. However, this substitution does not reduce the number of credit hours required to complete the degree program.



## Applying Coursework from a Certificate Program into a GSEHD Degree Program

Students who have completed coursework in a certificate program at GSEHD may apply for admission to one of our degree programs through the Office of Admissions. Applicants who have completed coursework in a certificate program at GSEHD are not guaranteed admission to one of our degree programs.

All coursework taken as part of a GSEHD certificate program may be counted towards a subsequent degree program, assuming the coursework meets ALL the following conditions:

- Course was completed with a grade of “B” or better;
- Course was completed within five years of beginning the new degree program;
- Course is approved by the faculty advisor as part of the official Program Plan of Study;
- **If a student applies 12 or more of the credits from a GSEHD certificate program to their new degree program, the student may not transfer in any additional non-GW credits including coursework taken in non-degree status and at other institutions. Coursework transferred into the certificate however, can be applied as part of the certificate to a Master's or Ed.S. Degree.**

## Transferring Credits into GSEHD Certificate Programs

Graduate coursework taken at another institution, earned at GW in non-degree status, or while completing a degree program at GW, is considered transfer credit when applied towards any certificate program at GSEHD and does not count towards residency requirements. Graduate coursework may be approved for transfer if it meets ALL of the following criteria:

- It was taken at a regionally accredited college or institution;
- It has been approved as part of the student's Program Plan of Study;
- It was completed within five years of the date of first enrollment as an admitted; certificate, Master's or Education Specialist student;
- It was completed with a grade of “B” or better;
- It has not been used to fulfill the requirements of another degree program (specific exceptions regarding coursework completed in a GSEHD program are outlined below).

Students admitted to a GSEHD Certificate program are eligible to transfer **up to a total of 1/3 of the number of credits hours required to complete the program**. **No course can count towards more than one certificate program**. Please carefully read the policies outlined below regarding transferring credit into a certificate program. If you have questions about how they might apply to your particular situation, please contact your faculty advisor or the Office of Student Services.

**Coursework completed at another institution:** At most, one 3-credit hour graduate level course from outside GW can be transferred into a certificate program with the approval of the program or department. If approved, this coursework would count towards the transfer credit limit of 1/3 of the credit hours required to complete the program.

**Coursework completed at another school at GW:** Students who would like to transfer coursework completed at another school at GW must have the approval of the GSEHD Senior Associate Dean. If approved, this coursework would count towards the transfer credit limit of 1/3 of the credit hours required to complete the program.

**Coursework completed at GSEHD:** The following policies guide transferring coursework completed within the last five years at GSEHD to a certificate program: Students who were previously enrolled in a GSEHD degree program may elect to apply completed coursework to a certificate program **provided the degree was not conferred and the coursework was approved by the faculty advisor.**

### Total number of credit hours eligible for transfer

The following policies guide the number of credit hours students are eligible to transfer into a certificate program.

- Students admitted to a certificate program requiring completion of 18 credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 6 credit hours.**
- Students admitted to a certificate program requiring completion of 15 credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 5 credit hours.**
- Students admitted to a certificate program requiring completion of 12 credit hours are eligible to transfer **up to 4 credit hours.**

Note: Students may transfer in credits from different sources to include coursework completed in non-degree status or from another institution; provided that the coursework follows the guidelines outlined above.

### Advanced Standing

Advanced standing is granted for approved courses taken at other regionally accredited institutions, but a minimum of 24 credit hours must be completed in the Graduate School of Education and Human Development as a master's candidate. A maximum of 12 credit hours taken in non-degree status may be credited toward the master's degree.

Advanced standing is not granted for work completed five or more years before application for admission or readmission to master's candidacy. All work accepted for advanced standing must have been earned with a grade of *B* or better and must be approved for acceptance by both the advisor and the dean. *Credit, Satisfactory, Audit*, or other non-letter grades are not acceptable.

### Second Master's Degree

Persons seeking a second master's degree must complete all core and specialization requirements and a minimum residency requirement of 24 credit hours.

### Research Course Requirement

All GSEHD M.A. programs require the completion of a program-approved 3-credit research course to satisfy research requirements.

If a student's plan of study requires EDUC 6112 Foundations of Assessment, Testing, and Measurement in Education, EDUC 6114 - Introduction to Quantitative Research, or EDUC 6116 - Educational Statistics, and they wish to waive this requirement because they have taken an equivalent course outside of GW, they must seek approval through their faculty advisor. They should be prepared to submit an official transcript and a syllabus that includes a description of the equivalent course. If the student's advisor and a member of the research methods faculty agree that EDUC 6112, EDUC 6114, or EDUC 6116 should be waived, his/her advisor should submit a [Program Plan Change Form](#), cosigned by the chairperson of Research Methods or his/her designate, to the student's Student Services Representative to that effect. **A waiver of**



**the required research course does not reduce the number of credit hours required to complete the degree program.**

## Comprehensive Examinations

Successful completion of the comprehensive examination is required for some Education Specialist programs, as well as the following Master's programs:

- **Department of Educational Leadership**
  - Educational Technology Leadership
- **Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy**
  - Elementary Education
  - Secondary Education
  - Curriculum and Instruction
- **Department of Special Education and Disability Studies**
  - Early Childhood Special Education (Some students complete a portfolio in lieu of the comprehensive exam)
  - Interdisciplinary Secondary Transition Services
  - Special Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners
  - Special Education for Children with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities
  - Secondary Special Education

Non-certification programs may have a portfolio or research project in lieu of a comprehensive exam, or may give an alternative exam.

An updated list of programs requiring the comprehensive examination can be found [here](#). Students also may refer to their program plan to see whether this is a requirement for their program.

In order to be cleared to sit for the comprehensive examination, students must have completed all of their coursework or be in their final semester of coursework and have no grades of Incomplete ("I") or In Progress ("IPG") on their record.

All students must be enrolled in the semester in which they sit for the comprehensive examination. Master's students who have completed all coursework may prepare for and sit for the comprehensive examination in Continuous Enrollment (CE) status. Should a retake of the examination be necessary, Master's students who have already reached their two semester limit for CE are required to sign up for the 0920-Continuing Research course, which carries a fee equivalent to one credit hour of tuition.

All Education Specialist students must register for the 0920-Continuing Research course in order to sit for the comprehensive examination, if not otherwise enrolled in coursework.

Students who have failed to pass the comprehensive examination twice may not sit for the exam a third time without the approval of the Master's Appeals Committee (for Master's students) or the Post Master's Appeals Committee (for Education Specialist students).

## Graduation and Commencement

### Eligibility for Graduation

Degrees are conferred in January, May, and August. To be eligible for graduation a student must have completed satisfactorily the scholarship, curriculum, residence, and other requirements for the degree as stated in this bulletin; filed an application for graduation by the published deadline date; and be free from all indebtedness to the University. Enrollment is required for the semester or summer at the close of which the degree is to be conferred, and all degree requirements must be completed by the last day of final examinations for that semester or summer session.

### Participation in the Commencement Ceremony

Participation in the annual commencement ceremony held in May is open to students who have applied to graduate in the current spring semester, or who graduated the preceding fall or summer semester. Master's and Education Specialist students **who need no more than nine credit hours** to complete their degree requirements may participate in the May commencement ceremonies if there is a reasonable expectation that they will be able to obtain the needed credits during the following summer. The maximum of nine credit hours is firm and not subject to petition.

### Certificate Completion

To be eligible for the granting of a Graduate Certificate within GSEHD, students must complete all course requirements with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and with no grades of "F." Graduate Certificate students must submit an [Application for Certificate Completion to the Office of Student Services](#) by the deadlines stated in the academic calendar. Certificate students are not eligible to participate in the University's Commencement Ceremony.

An Application for Certificate Completion (available [online](#)) must be submitted to the Office of Student Services by the deadlines listed below to ensure that students receive their certificates and do not incur late fees. Applications should be submitted at the beginning of the student's final semester but no later than the following deadlines:

Semester of Completion	Application Deadline
Spring Completion	April 1 <sup>st</sup>
Summer Completion	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Fall Completion	December 1st

### Final Graduation/Completion Clearance

The Office of Student Services clears all GSEHD students for graduation. Please note that degree clearance for everyone other than doctoral students usually takes place after the official degree conferral date. Degree conferral cannot occur until final grades are posted and confirmation of fulfillment of all other requirements on your program plan (comprehensive exams, program plan changes, PRAXIS exams, minimum 3.0 GPA, etc.) has been received by the Office of Student Services. If your program requires PRAXIS for graduation, you are required to designate GW as a score recipient when enrolling for the exam (institution id: 5246). If all of your grades are not posted, please check with your instructor(s). According to the Office of the Registrar, degree

conferral “may take anywhere from 6-8 weeks after your graduation date.”

Official transcripts and diplomas will reflect the official degree conferral date, regardless of clearance date, if all program requirements have been completed. Students can verify that their degree has been conferred via their unofficial transcript on [GWeb](#).

## Student Appeals Process

All students have the right to appeal an academic decision (i.e. residency requirements, admissions decisions, grade appeals, and decisions that alter a student's status) from GSEHD before the appropriate committee.

The Master's Appeals Committee (for certificate and Master's students) meets once a month during the academic year (September through May). The Post Master's Appeals Committee (for Education Specialist and Doctoral students) meets four times during the academic year, usually in September, November, February, and April.

### Informal Resolution

Prior to appealing a decision through the appropriate committee, **the student first should attempt to resolve the matter with the faculty member(s) most directly responsible.** If no resolution results, the student then should consult with the individual at the next administrative level, for example, the director of the program or the chair of the relevant department.

If there continues to be no resolution, the program director, chair, or student may contact the Senior Associate Dean and solicit assistance to ensure that adequate steps are taken to resolve the issue at an informal level without the complaint escalating to the status of a formal appeal. If no resolution is achieved as a result of these informal attempts, the student may appeal to the Master's Appeals Committee (MAC) or the Post Master's Appeals Committee (PMAC) as appropriate. **Any such informal attempts will not extend the six-month period during which an appeal may be filed.**

### Formal Appeal

In order for an appeal to be considered by the Master's Appeals Committee (MAC) or Post Master's Appeals Committee (PMAC), students must adhere to the following process:

- Submit the appeal and supporting documentation in writing to the MAC or PMAC through the appropriate Student Services Representative **no later than six months from the decision being appealed.** The letter requesting an appeal must include the following information:
  - A description of the reason for requesting an appeal;
  - A detailed description and timeline of events;
  - A statement explaining the outcome sought by the student;
- All documents relevant to the case (e.g., student statement, faculty member statement, transcript of coursework, and all other related documentation) must be in the Student Services Representative's possession **at least two weeks prior to the committee meeting date.**

Once the student has properly submitted all case materials, the appeal will then be placed on the MAC's or PMAC's agenda for the next meeting during the academic year.

The student will be notified in writing of the date and time of the meeting by his/her Student Services Representative and has the right to attend the meeting. If planning to attend the meeting, the student must inform the Student Services Representative in writing **no later than one week prior to the meeting**. The student may have another individual present for support, but that person will not be permitted to speak or participate in the meeting. If the individual is an attorney, the student must inform the committee chair **no later than one week prior to the meeting**. Students who choose to attend will be allotted an appropriate amount of time (to be determined by the committee chair) to present the case. The presentation will be followed by questions related to the case from committee members. In the event that a student does not attend, the committee will base their decision on the written documentation in the case file.

The student will be notified in writing of the committee's decision by his or her Student Services Representative within 10 business days of the meeting.

### Final Appeal

The student may appeal the decision of the MAC or PMAC by submitting a written appeal to the Dean of GSEHD. The appeal must be written and submitted **within 30 calendar days** of the date on the appeals decision letter. A delay in filing an appeal may constitute grounds for rejection of the appeal. The decision of the Dean is final.

## University Policies

### Academic Integrity

GW's Code of Academic Integrity is available in the [GW Guide to Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). This code is designed to promote academic honesty and describes how violations of the GW's Code of Academic Integrity are handled.

### Change of Personal Information

An official name change or social security number change should be made at the Office of the Registrar by submitting a [Request to Change Name/Social Security Number](#). Students may update their address online through [GWeb](#) or by mailing or faxing an [Address Change Form](#) to the Office of the Registrar, Enterprise Hall, 44983 Knoll Square, Suite 390, Ashburn, VA 20147; fax (202) 994-3445. Failure to do so may result in a delay in receiving important correspondence from GSEHD and GW.

### Immunization Requirement

All students under age 26, regardless of program of study, location of study, part-time or full-time status, degree or non-degree status, must comply with the immunization requirement as set forth by the Law of the District of Columbia. It is important that you comply as soon as possible so that your registration is not hindered. You can find more information about the immunization requirement on the website of GW Student Health: <http://studenthealth.gwu.edu/immunizations>.

### Privacy of Records

The Graduate School of Education and Human Development complies with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), commonly referred to as the "Buckley Agreement."

Students should refer to the [GW Guide to Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) for information regarding this policy. All applications and supporting documents become the property of The George Washington University once received and cannot be returned.

### **Student Records**

The [GW Guide to Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) is available at the Office of Academic Integrity (812 20<sup>th</sup> St. NW). This statement includes the Code of Student Conduct that defines student behavior considered to be disruptive to the academic enterprise and life within the campus community. The code also details the process through which disciplinary action is taken by GW when students are charged with violations of its provisions. Students who are charged with serious offenses may have their cases heard by boards that include students as members of the hearing panels; those charged with minor offenses are subject to a disciplinary conference.

### **Equal Opportunity**

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on any basis prohibited by federal law, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, or other applicable law, including without limitation, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. This policy covers all programs, services, policies, and procedures of the university, including admission to education programs and employment.

### **Sexual Harassment**

The George Washington University is committed to maintaining a positive climate for study and work, in which individuals are judged solely on relevant factors, such as ability and performance, and can pursue their activities in an atmosphere that is free from coercion, intimidation, and violence. The university mission statement provides that the university "values a dynamic, student-focused community stimulated by cultural and intellectual diversity and built upon a foundation of integrity, creativity, and openness to exploration of new ideas." The university is committed to free inquiry, free expression, and the vigorous discussion and debate on which advancement of its mission depends. Sexual harassment is destructive of such a climate and will not be tolerated in the university community.

Sexual harassment of students by faculty or administrators or of employees by those in a position to affect their The GW Graduate School of Education and Human Development employment status or by other employees in the work unit is inimical to such an atmosphere and will not be condoned.

If you have any questions about the university's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures please direct them to the university's Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, who also serves as the university's Title IX Coordinator, at (202) 994-7440 or via email at [diverse@gwu.edu](mailto:diverse@gwu.edu). You may also contact the university's Assistant Title IX Coordinators identified in the section entitled "Contacts" in the [Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy](#).

Additional information can be obtained from visiting the university's [Haven](#) website.

## **GSEHD Student Organizations**

### **GSEHD Student Association**

The purpose of the [GSEHD Student Association](#) (GSEHD SA) is to represent the students of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, to elucidate, express, and further their interests and concerns regarding School and University matters. The GSEHD SA shall encourage school unity between students of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

### **Chi Sigma Iota Rho Theta**

[Chi Sigma Iota](#) is the international honor society for counselors-in-training, counselor educators, and professional counselors.

### **Education Policy Student Association**

The [Education Policy Student Association](#)'s purpose is to be a forum for interaction among Education Policy students, alums, and faculty as well as the broader GW and DC policy community to foster social, academic, and professional development activities. The association provides an opportunity for professional growth, social interaction and networking among its members. The goal is to make EPSA a welcoming place for both current students and alums of both the Master's and Doctorate in Education Policy programs where ideas are shared, lasting friendships are made, and professional advancements are cultivated. Joining the organization is free and open to all alums and students of the Education Policy program.

### **Higher Education Student Association**

The [Higher Education Student Association](#) (HESA) is committed to the pursuit of excellence of all students. Created in 1976, HESA is a significant part of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development and exists to provide a forum of social interaction, academic support and professional development through numerous activities and events.

### **Human and Organizational Learning (HOL) Student Association**

The [HOL Student Association](#) seeks to broaden educational goals, focused around education, business, communication, and management. The association challenges students to be participatory members of the GSEHD community and encourages self-reliance in taking leadership roles.

### **International Education Association**

The [International Education Association](#) (IEA) a student organization whose mission is to advocate for increased awareness of international education through: fostering professional development, providing networking opportunities, and facilitating cultural and service events for students and alumni of GW's International Education Program (IEP). The IEA also seeks to promote communication between other student organizations and GW as a whole.

### **Museum Education**

The purpose of the [Museum Education Student Association](#) is to foster and maintain credibility and integrity of the Museum Education Program and museum education profession. The Association will advocate for accessibility and accountability, cultivate a forum for scholarly interaction among students, alumni, and faculty, and encourage active participation within the museum community. The Museum Education Student Association will serve its purpose through active participation of currently enrolled Museum Education Program students and participating alumni.

### **Phi Delta Kappa**

Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International is a professional organization for men and women in education.



Founded in 1906, it now has over 100,000 members and over 660 chapters across the United States, Canada, and 12 other countries, including a chapter here at GW. For additional information on membership and this year's events calendar please refer to <http://pdkintl.org/> for more information.

## **GW Student Activities and Organizations**

### **GW Student Association**

As the official student government organization at GW, the [GW Student Association](#) (SA) is responsible for representing all registered graduate, undergraduate, and professional students.

### **Black Graduate Student Association**

The [Black Graduate Student Association \(BGSA\)](#) at The George Washington University was founded in 1993 by a group of future black professionals who saw a greater need in the graduate community. If you are interested in learning more and/or becoming involved, contact BGSA at [gwbgsa@gwu.edu](mailto:gwbgsa@gwu.edu).

## **University Resources**

### **The Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service**

The [Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service](#) aims to integrate civic engagement into George Washington University's educational work. We focus GW's resources to meet community needs beyond the campus, promote active citizenship in a diverse democracy, and enhance teaching, learning and scholarship at GW.

### **Graduate, Distance, and Professional Student Engagement**

The mission of the [Graduate, Distance, and Professional Student Engagement](#) (GDP) team is to: provide GW graduate, distance, and professional students information and resources through various channels; advocate for graduate students; provide learning opportunities through various co-curricular initiatives; and develop community by supporting social, recreational, and cultural events.

### **University Hearing Board**

The [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) is responsible for the non-academic campus judiciary. Graduate students are encouraged to apply as justices on the [University Hearing Board](#).