

Atlanta Urban Teacher Residency

Frequently Asked Questions

What is "teacher residency"?

- Teacher residency is an exciting new concept in teacher recruitment, preparation, and support. It is a method of recruiting teachers for hard-to-fill positions and giving them a strong year of "on-the-job" training, similar to a medical residency, so that they can hit the ground running when they become responsible for their own classrooms. It works to prepare a new kind of teacher from inside the classroom.

Why will a teacher residency program be successful at finding strong math teachers?

- We're looking for individuals who love math. Given those interests, such individuals typically pursue math in college rather than a teaching degree. But it's often the case that they decide they'd like to share this love of math with children. Currently, they can do that through an alternative teaching certificate, but this route essentially throws them into sudden, full responsibility for a classroom with very little preparation – and they have to go to school at night to gain certification at the same time that they are wrestling the challenges of classroom planning, grading papers, and learning how to teach! The difficulties of this approach are a deterrent to many people. Teacher residencies offer a much stronger method of giving a teacher the training, experience and support needed to take effective responsibility for a classroom.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

How long is the program?

- Five years, one year as a Resident and four years as a teacher within a high-needs Atlanta Public School.

What grades can Residents teach?

- During the residency year, Residents will be partnered with a master teacher (Resident Advisor), teaching in grades sixth through twelfth. Residents will earn a secondary teaching certificate, which means they can teach grades six through twelve.

What does a typical week look like in the life of a Resident?

- Four days a week are spent in an APS classroom, learning and teaching alongside a Resident Advisor. One full day a week is spent with fellow Residents participating in the university coursework.

Will all Residents receive a job within Atlanta Public Schools?

- Residents who successfully complete the Residency year will be given high priority to receive a contract to teach within APS.

How are Residents and Resident Advisors Teachers matched?

- AUTR is responsible for matching Residents with Resident Advisors, and is committed to successful partnerships. Before pairing decisions are made, Residents and Resident Advisors have the opportunity to meet and interact in order to help us make the best possible matches.

What type of license will I receive?

- All Residents will receive a Georgia Clear Renewable teaching certification.

Who can become a Resident in Atlanta Urban Teacher Residency (AUTR)?

- The AUTR seeks applicants who have demonstrated excellence in their professional and/or academic endeavors. Applicants may be career changers, recent college graduates, paraprofessionals or other educators looking to become a certificated classroom teacher.

Do I have to be a Georgia resident to be eligible for the Atlanta Urban Teacher Residency?

- No. Our program does not have any state residency requirements. Applicants living in all 50 states are welcome to apply.

How many Residents will AUTR accept for the 2012-2013 year?

- Ideally, the AUTR plans to train a cohort of approximately 10-15 Residents during the 2012-2013 program year.

How competitive is the AUTR Selection Process?

- Our selection process is quite competitive. We are looking for outstanding people who have the desire and potential to be highly effective teachers in Atlanta Public Schools.

How much is the salary for AUTR Residents?

- Each Resident will receive a salary between \$25,000 - \$30,000 for the full school year (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013). Salaries are paid on the 5th and 20th of every month.

Does AUTR offer health insurance?

- The State Health Benefit Plan of Georgia administers the health insurance program for Atlanta Public Schools. For details on benefits please click on the following link <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1198>

APPLICATION

How do I apply?

- Anyone interested in participating in AUTR should complete an online application. Applications will be available in early December on the AUTR website, www.atlantapublicschools.us/autr.

What are the selection components?

- Applicants must submit completed applications by the **Deadline of February 17, 2012**.
- From a review of the applications, recommendations and phone interviews, APS will then invite qualifying applicants to attend the Selection Weekend, Friday-Saturday in Atlanta (Date TBD).

What are the eligibility requirements for the Atlanta Urban Teacher Residency?

All Applicants must:

- *Hold a bachelor's degree by no later than June 2012*
- *Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident*
- *Have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 2.75*
- *Submit a passing score on GACE Basic Skills and Content Tests by April 27, 2012*
- *Have 24 undergraduate credit hours in mathematics content*
- *Submit official Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores*

What is GACE?

- The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) has contracted with the Evaluation Systems group of Pearson to assist in the development and administration of the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators® (GACE®). The purpose of the GACE is to assess the knowledge and skills of prospective Georgia public school educators. The GACE program helps the GaPSC meet its goal of ensuring that candidates have the knowledge and skills needed to perform the job of an educator in Georgia public schools. The GACE are aligned with state and national standards for educator preparation and with state standards for the P–12 student curriculum (Georgia Performance Standards).

What GACE tests are required to apply?

- A passing score on all three parts (reading, writing, and math) of the [GACE® Basic Skills assessment](#)

You may be exempt from taking the GACE Basic Skills Assessment with one of the following:

- **ACT** - 21 English & 22 Mathematics or 43 Combined
- **GRE** - 490 Verbal & 540 Quantitative or 1030 Combined
- **SAT** - 480 Verbal & 520 Mathematics or 1000 Combined
- Passed the Praxis I test prior to September 1, 2006
- Hold a Master's degree or higher
- Passing scores on the GACE Mathematics Assessment (022 and 023):

What are the testing dates for the GACE Basic Skills Assessment?

- For paper-based and computer-based testing dates and registration for the GACE exam, please go to www.gace.nesinc.com
- The computer-based GACE Basic Skills Assessment testing windows are:
 - **December 8-21, 2011 (excluding December 11 and 18),**
 - **February 9-22, 2012 (excluding February 12 and 19).**
- The paper-based GACE Basic Skills Assessment testing windows are:
 - **January 7, 2012**
 - **March 24, 2012**

What are the testing dates for the GACE Mathematics Assessment?

- The paper-based GACE Mathematics Assessment available test dates are:
 - **January 7, 2012**
 - **March 24, 2012**

How and when should I start preparing for the GACE?

- We encourage all our applicants to take the test seriously. For specific preparation materials, please consider obtaining outside resources in addition to resources given on www.gace.nesinc.com
- For additional frequently asked questions about the GACE please visit their FAQ page at http://www.gace.nesinc.com/GA_faq.asp?q070101

What are fees for the GACE tests?

| Test Fees | |
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| Basic Skills assessment (per test) | \$25 |
| Content assessments (per test) | \$70 |
| Test Registration Fees | |
| Registration processing fee (must be paid once for each paper-based test administration or each CBT test appointment) | \$25 |
| Late registration fee (paper-based testing) | \$30 |

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| Emergency registration fee (paper-based testing) | \$50 |
| Computer-based testing fee (must be paid once for each CBT test appointment) | \$30 |
| Additional Service Fees | |
| Change of registration fee (paper-based testing) | \$25 |
| Fee for additional copy of test results (per copy) | \$10 |
| Test rescoring (paper-based testing) | \$25 |
| Fee to clear an account (for example, due to a disputed credit card charge) | \$20 |

Can I reapply if I do not get admitted?

- Yes, applicants can reapply for the next academic year.

UNIVERSITY PARTNER

Do I need to take the GRE?

- Yes, the GRE is a required exam for admission into the M.A.T program.

What type of Masters will I receive?

- AUTR participants will receive a Master of Arts in Teaching in Mathematics Education.

When do I receive my M.A.T.?

- AUTR participants will receive a M.A.T. the end of the summer 2013, after successful completion of the residency year and the Master's coursework.

When does the 2012-2013 program begin and end?

- The 2012-2013 AUTR Residency Year will begin in June 2012 and end May 2013. Masters coursework will begin in summer 2012 and end summer 2013.
- While the Residency training is a one-year program, the AUTR requires a four-year teaching commitment Atlanta Public Schools following the residency year. The AUTR continues to provide graduates with formal and informal support and professional development during their first three years of teaching.

Who is responsible for paying the tuition for the M.A.T. program?

- The resident is responsible for all tuition and fees.

Does the AUTR provide options regarding loan forgiveness for my existing student loans?

- No. However, as a Resident with AUTR there are established loan forgiveness programs that you will be eligible to participate in. Please see this Department of Education link regarding loan forgiveness:
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp?tab=repaying>
- For those of you that are holding undergraduate school loans (for example, Perkins or Stafford Loans), you may qualify for some or all of your loan to be forgiven in return for teaching in a high-needs school or in a high-need subject area. For example, Perkins Loans are forgiven at the annual rate of 15%, 15%, 20%, 20% and 30%, for qualifying teachers. So, after five years of teaching, your entire loan can be forgiven.