

Professional Studies Certificate: Gifted Education



An Online, Part-time, One-Year Certificate Program (12 credit hours)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Professional Studies Certificate in Gifted Education prepares teachers to implement best practices in gifted and talented instruction through collaboration, reflection, critical thinking, coaching, data analysis and authentic assessments. This program is designed to meet the current and changing needs of regional teachers and school systems as they strive to upgrade professional skills and teaching effectiveness. This certificate program is flexible enough to adapt to individual school or teacher needs. It is also designed to meet Virginia endorsement add-on requirements in Gifted Education. This certificate program is a teacher-oriented and inquiry-centered program that addresses the complex field of giftedness by offering four-core gifted courses for all participants in the program. These courses use research-based best practices to inform the teachers' decisions, provide guidance in addressing problems they will encounter in educational roles, and present opportunities to effect change in the environment in which they work. The program is developed so a student may begin with any of the four courses.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate Application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee
- Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3.0 GPA)
- Unofficial transcripts for initial admission from all institutions of higher education previously attended.
- Current teaching license valid in any U.S. state
- One letter of recommendation from an administrator or supervisor
- Resume
- Two years teaching experience and access to schools
- Language Proficiency Requirement must be met. Submission of TOEFL, IELTS, PTE, or Duolingo English Test may be required. See our policy for full details: <https://www.su.edu/admissions/international-students>

CURRICULUM

The certificate requirement is 12 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Course	Title	Credits
GTD 611	Understanding and Educating Gifted Learners	3
GTD 612	Curriculum Development for Gifted Students	3
GTD 613	Social & Emotional Issues of Gifted Children	3
GTD 615	Strategies for Gifted Learners	3
Total		12

45 total clock hours of required field experiences are included in the courses

*Virginia-licensed teachers completing this concentration may submit documentation through SU-DEL or their school system to VDOE for the Add-on Endorsement in Gifted Education

ADMISSION & APPLICATION

Start Term

Spring (January)
Fall (August)

Admission Deadline

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis

Format/Location

Online asynchronous

How to Apply

Begin the online application process by going to www.su.edu/sehdapp

Foreign Transcripts

International transcript evaluation by an accredited agency is an admission requirement. Approved services are listed at www.naces.org and <http://aice-eval.org/>.

Transfer Credits

Only grades of "A" or "B" are transferable

A maximum of nine graduate hours may be approved by the Director

Contact Us

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Office of Graduate Admissions
SUGradAdmissions@su.edu
call: 540-665-4581 | text: 540-546-6029

Office of Financial Aid
<https://www.su.edu/financial-aid/incoming-graduate-aid/>
finaid@su.edu | call: 540-665-4538



**Dr. Melissa Hartman, Gifted Education
Program Director**

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

Shenandoah University's Division of Education & Leadership (DOEL) prepares practitioner-leaders by offering programs of study that conform to the following principles: practicing in a spirit of collaboration; thoughtful examination of the foundations, current contexts, and future possibilities of the fields of study; encouraging proactive, problem-centered philosophies of educational and professional practice; producing graduates who will be knowledge-driven, competent decision-makers whose thinking is informed by reflective practice; and preparing caring, capable, and reflective teachers, administrators, human services, and public sector practitioners.

As part of efforts to make education more accessible for educators and leaders who serve our communities, all DOEL graduate programs are offered at a [reduced tuition rate](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can this program be completed online?

Yes, the program is fully online asynchronous.

How much does the program cost?

Tuition through the Division of Education and Leadership is offered at the discounted rate of \$490 per credit hour for the [2025-2026 Academic Year](#).

Can I complete this program while working full time?

Yes, all of our programs in the Division of Education & Leadership can be completed on a part-time basis. Most graduate students enrolled in DOEL programs also work full time.