



Upgrade Advisor



“New” - Upgrade Advisor

- Uses information about GaPSC approved programs to advise about “new field” upgrades
- Provides advice about degrees offered by eligible institutions that support “in-field” upgrades



Upgrade Advisor

Sources of information...

New Field Upgrade – GaPSC database of approved initial certification programs

In-field Upgrade – GaPSC database of accepted advanced degree programs, list of USG degree programs, and degrees submitted to GaPSC by institutions for possible inclusion in the Advisor. Degrees are vetted and aligned to certification fields by GaPSC Certificate Upgrade Review Committee

<https://www.gapsc.com>

Georgia Professional Standards Commission
Protecting Georgia's Higher Standard of Learning

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News and Announcements

- Registration closed for Oct. 24th Annual Certification and Program Officials Conference
- Latest on GACE – 6-21-17 [Now!](#)
- Credits waived for 2016 and 2017 Certificate renewal
- GapSC Sets edTPA Passing Score

[more >>](#)

Certification Status

**** Application status checks no longer provided via phone or email ****

- We are currently processing complete application packages received on or before September 25, 2017.
- [Click here](#) to learn how to check the status of your application or certification request.
- [Click here](#) to look up or verify a Georgia educator certificate.

Popular Links

- [Educator Assessment - GACE](#)
- [Rules](#)
- [Commission Meeting](#)
- [Download Forms](#)
- [Paraprofessionals](#)
- [Approved Programs](#)

Policies And Guidelines

- [Understanding the 2014 Educator Certification Changes](#)
- [Certificate Upgrades](#)
- [Paying for Advanced Leadership Degrees \(HB 455/923\)](#)
- [Requirements for Certificate Renewal \[Now!\]\(#\)](#)
- [Georgia Educational Leadership](#)

Education Links...

- [American Association for Colleges for Teacher Education \(AACTE\)](#)
- [GA Association of Educational Leaders \(GAEL\)](#)
- [GA Association of Educators \(GAE\)](#)
- [GA Board of Regents \(USG\)](#)
- [GA Department of Education \(DOE\)](#)

Commission Information
Rules, meetings, commission members, announcements ... [more >](#)

Find a Job in Education!
TeachGeorgia! See jobs listed by public school systems ... [more >](#)

Know the Numbers

This Fiscal Year	(Since July 1, 2017)
Applications received	19,317
Educators newly certified	7,254
Certificate fields first issued	34,393
Educators renewed	4,045
Transactions completed	16,873

Human Trafficking Hotline Information
Call now or click to learn more.
1-888-373-7888

Georgia Alliance of Education Agency Heads
COLLABORATE • INNOVATE • ACHIEVE

The Georgia Alliance of Education Agency Heads is a student-focused collaboration between the heads of Georgia's education agencies and the Governor's office. The AEAH facilitates student success by aligning policymakers, education agencies, and strategic partners to promote a shared commitment and improve educational outcomes.

<https://www.gapsc.com/CurrentEducator/CurrentEducator.aspx>

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Current Georgia Educators

Are you a certified Georgia Educator? You can find answers to your questions here.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GEORGIA CERTIFICATE

Now that I have a certificate, what do I need to know about it? What does it allow me to teach? When does it expire? Use the links below to manage your certificate:

- [Check Certification Status - MyPSC](#)
- [Certificate Renewal](#)
- [How do I Convert to a Retired Educator Certificate?](#)
- [How do I Convert to a Different Tier?](#)
- [How do I Add a Certificate Field?](#)
- [How do I Upgrade My Certificate Level?](#)
- [How do I Delete a Certificate Field?](#)

CERTIFICATION & LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS

Most Georgia educator certificates require some type of certification assessment. Please use the link above to learn more about the different types of assessments and the certificates and licenses for which each is required.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED EDUCATORS (NCLB)

What does Highly Qualified mean? How does NCLB affect me?

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS/BACKGROUND CHECKS

As a Georgia Educator you will be held to high standards of professional and ethical conduct. Upon employment, there will be an FBI background check, and a state background check when you renew your certificate, Find out [MORE...](#)

EDUCATOR ETHICS KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

JOBS AND JOB FAIRS

I'm certified and ready to work. How do I find out about job vacancies and how do I apply for a job?

Scroll to bottom of page

degree level:

- Master's and Specialist degree programs must be completed by September 1, 2015.
- Doctorate degree programs must be completed by September 1, 2017.

Georgia educators who complete advanced degree programs within these timelines will earn a certificate level upgrade – and the commensurate pay increase according to their employing [LUA's](#) certification pay schedule – regardless of the program's state approval status. Institutions must meet only the basic accreditation status required by the GaPSC, which is to be accredited by an agency recognized by [CHEA](#) or the [U.S. DOE](#). It is important to note that while completing an existing program in one of these fields will lead to a certificate upgrade, it will not result in the addition of a new certification field. GaPSC-approved programs have completed conversion mechanisms to allow completers of grandfathered degrees in these fields to add the certification fields to their certificates. Please [click here](#) for GaPSC-approved programs that offer conversion mechanisms in the three new fields.

During the grandfathering period for the three new fields, existing programs similar in name or content to Curriculum and Instruction, Instructional Technology and Teacher Leadership degrees will be honored. Please see the examples below of names of degrees the GaPSC is accepting in each of the three fields:

- **Instructional Technology:** Specialization in Classroom Integration of Technology, Educational Technology, Technology in Education, Technology Integration, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning, Technology in Schools;
- **Curriculum and Instruction:** Teaching and Learning, Accomplished Teaching, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching, Curriculum Instruction Management and Administration;
- **Teacher Leadership:** Instructional Leadership.

Advanced Leadership Degrees

Georgia educators who complete an advanced degree leading to a new field upgrade in a leadership field will receive a **leader level** which will be applied to their certificate along with the **general level** that they held before upgrading. A leader level will only be used to determine salary if the educator is working in a leadership position. Otherwise, the educator will be paid according to his or her general level. Subsequent in-field upgrades earned by completing advanced degrees in a leadership field will upgrade the educator's leader level, but will not affect the general level. For more information about pay increases related to advanced leadership degrees, please read the guidance document found [here](#).

Georgia educators who already hold certification in a leadership field but have not been issued a leader level may upgrade their general level by completing an advanced leadership degree leading to an in-field upgrade. These educators will not receive a leader level.

Please be sure to check out the GaPSC [Certificate Upgrade Advisor](#) if you are considering options for upgrading your certificate level.

For more information about certificate upgrades, please consult the [Certificate Upgrade Rule](#).

https://www.gapsc.com/Commission/Policies_guidelines/UpgradeUtility/Upgrade_Initial.aspx



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Certificate Upgrade Advisor

Do you currently hold a certificate that can be upgraded?

The following types of certificates can be upgraded:

- Renewable, professional certificates: Includes Standard Professional, Performance-Based Professional, Advanced Professional, & Lead Professional. Permits may not be upgraded;
- Induction Pathway 1, 2, or 3 certificates: Induction Pathway 4 certificates may not be upgraded.

If you hold any other type of certificate or license, you do not qualify for a certificate upgrade and the Advisor will not be able to assist you.

Some degrees will not lead to a certificate upgrade! You may upgrade your certificate level by completing a degree program that matches one of your existing fields of certification, or by completing a degree program that prepares you for certification in a new field. If you choose to complete a new field upgrade please know you will be required to pass the appropriate GACE assessment(s). The college/university at which you complete your advanced degree must also meet certain institutional accreditation requirements. To read more about certificate upgrade requirements, please visit [this webpage](#) or read the [Certificate Upgrade Rule](#).

Login now! Use your MyPSC login credentials to access your advanced degree options which could lead to a certificate upgrade. The advisor will determine your eligibility for an upgrade and help you find acceptable in-field and new field degrees. You will be able to identify degree(s) of interest and save your results to your certification file as a record of GaPSC's verification of eligibility. GAPSC will honor all upgrade advisor approvals up to one year. If you are unable to enroll in the program within 1 year, simply login to the Upgrade Advisor and check and save the updated approval.

Login

Just browsing? Select the Quick View option for general certificate upgrade information. Since this option cannot access your current certification record, Quick View cannot determine your eligibility for an upgrade or give specific advice tailored to your certification. You will not be able to save Quick View search results.

Quick View

Any degree that appears in the Upgrade Advisor has already been reviewed by the GaPSC. An in-field degree that is marked **yes** is approved to lead to an upgrade in your certificate field. One that is marked **no** will not lead to an upgrade in the certificate field that you have selected. New field degrees are not listed as yes or no; any new field degrees that appear in the advisor are approved to lead to an upgrade as long as you also pass the appropriate content assessment. Please note that if a degree is approved for an upgrade in **any** certificate field except for Educational Leadership, the resulting upgrade will apply to all of your fields. For more information about pay increases resulting from Educational Leadership degrees, please read the guidance document found [here](#).

Although we are currently expanding our Upgrade Advisor to include as many degree programs as possible, this database is not exhaustive. If you are considering a degree program that is not listed under the related certification field in the Advisor, please complete [this form](#) and email it to certupgrade@GAPSC.com. We will then add the program's approval status to the Advisor for the related certificate field(s).

» **What are Georgia certificate levels?** [Show](#) | [Hide](#)



Upgrade Advisor

Two Modes...

- **“Logged In”**
 - Educator uses MyPSC account to log in
 - Uses the educator’s current certification record to provide up-to-date information
 - Can save the advice to the educator’s certification record
- **“Quick View”**
 - Anonymous
 - Best for school district HR people



Upgrade Advisor – Quick View

- Select between upgrade options
 - In-field upgrade
 - New field upgrade
- Select the degree/level to be pursued
- For in-field upgrade
 - Select a certificate field and see institutions offering a related degree at the desired degree/level
- For new field upgrade
 - Select a certificate field and see institutions offering initial certification at the desired degree/level



Certificate Upgrade Advisor

Select a certificate upgrade option:

In-field upgrade

New field upgrade

In-field upgrade

This method will allow you to view general certificate upgrade information. Since this option cannot access your current certification record, Quick View cannot determine your eligibility for an upgrade or give specific advice tailored to your certification.

- Select the option from the **What degree level are you planning to upgrade to?** drop-down list.
- Select the option from the **What certification field do you currently hold?** drop-down list.
- Your results will be displayed in the below table showing if the alignment is allowed by **Yes** or **No**.

Note: You will not be able to save Quick View search results.

Select the degree level you plan to pursue:

Select a certification field you currently hold:

Certificate Upgrade Advisor

Select a certificate upgrade option: In-field upgrade New field upgrade

In-field upgrade


This method will allow you to view general certificate upgrade information. Since this option cannot access your current certification record, Quick View cannot determine your eligibility for an upgrade or give specific advice tailored to your certification.

- Select the option from the **What degree level are you planning to upgrade to?** drop-down list.
- Select the option from the **What certification field do you currently hold?** drop-down list.
- Your results will be displayed in the below table showing if the alignment is allowed by **Yes** or **No**.

Note: You will not be able to save Quick View search results.

Select the degree level you plan to pursue:

Select a certification field you currently hold:

State	Institution	Degree	Allowed
GA	Kennesaw State University	Doctor of Education with a Major in Educational Leadership for Learning	YES 



Upgrade Advisor – Logged In

- **Log in using MyPSC credentials**
- **Select between In-field and new field upgrade options**
- **For in-field upgrade**
 - **Advisor displays all certificate fields & endorsements that can support an upgrade**
 - **Select a certificate field and see institutions offering a related degree at a degree/level higher than that currently held by the educator**
- **For new field upgrade**
 - **Select the degree/level to be pursued**
 - **Select a certificate field and see institutions offering initial certification at the desired degree/level**
- **Save degrees to a list; permanently save the list to Certification record**