B.S. in ENGLISH with CERTIFICATION (Grades 7-12)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

AN OVERVIEW OF
THE FOUR GATES AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Southern Connecticut State University
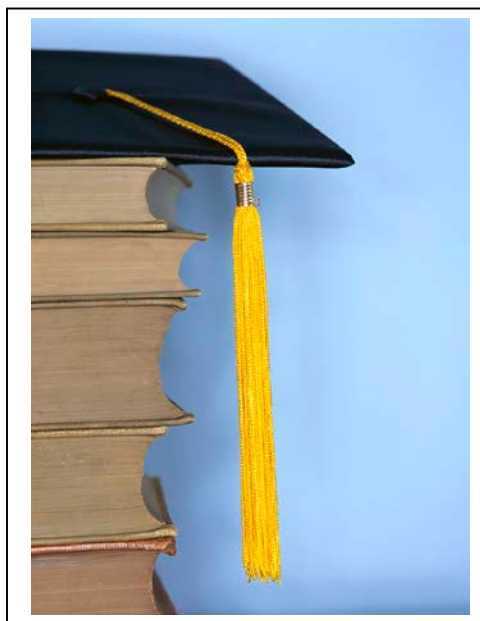
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PREFACE

Welcome to the BS in English with Certification (7-12). This handbook contains information you will need to successfully complete the Secondary English Education Program. Please keep this handbook in a convenient place and use it to guide your progress through your courses and other requirements. Though the information here is helpful in planning your sequence of courses, please remember to consult frequently with your advisor or the Secondary English Education Coordinator if you have questions.

We wish you the best of success in your studies, and in your future teaching!

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THE FOUR GATES in SECONDARY ENGLISH EDUCATION:
A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Each certification candidate, regardless of subject area, must pass through a set of four gates, or checkpoints, to complete his/her certification program. Every department has developed its own set of gates for its certification candidates. The gates mark significant experiences within the program to track candidates' progress and growth in their teacher training. The gates also ensure that candidates complete the program requirements in the optimal order, working toward the culminating experience of student teaching.

In the Secondary English Education program, the four gates, in brief, are . . .

Gate 1: Admission into the Secondary English Education program and College of Education; Proof of taking Praxis Core; completion of ENG 112 and EDU 200

Gate 2: The first methods course, ENG 492: Teaching English, Methods I; professional dispositions assessment

Gate 3: The second methods course, ENG 493, Teaching English, Methods II; professional dispositions assessment

Gate 4: Student teaching; completion of Tier 3 Capstone course, ENG 496; professional dispositions assessment

At each gate, certification candidates will be assessed to determine if the candidate demonstrates the competencies necessary to remain in good standing and proceed toward certification.

GATE 1: ADMISSION INTO THE PROGRAM

In Gate 1, candidates apply to the Secondary English Education Program and to the College of Education, either in the spring or fall semester. To do so, candidates must submit an application portfolio containing the following materials to the Secondary English Education Coordinator through the portal to Tk20 (https://southernct.tk20.com/campustoolshighered/start.do).

- Academic transcripts to all institutions attended (Official required for all except SCSU)
- Two recommendation forms with accompanying letters of recommendation (This requirement is waived for Spring 2021 applications.)
- Admission essay
- Academic writing sample from an English course
- Proof of taking Praxis Core Academic Skills Test or SAT/ACT
- Department interview with English faculty

The application portfolio, along with the interview with members of the English Department's Secondary Education Committee, offers candidates the opportunity to reflect the competencies necessary for admission into the program. Below is a list of additional requirements for admission. Please also check out the College of Ed's website concerning admission to teacher education programs: https://www.southernct.edu/education/certification-programs .

Additional Requirements and Information/Links:

GPA Requirements

The English Department requires that candidates have a **3.0 GPA** in English courses, including those taken at other institutions. The College of Education requires that candidates have a minimum overall **GPA of 2.7**. This GPA also includes course work taken at other universities. If a candidate does not meet the GPA requirements, it is possible to wait a semester, earn a higher GPA, and apply at a later time.

Course Requirements

Candidates should have successfully completed ENG 112: *Writing Arguments* and *EDU 200: Teachers, Schools, and Societies.*

Scores for Praxis Core

SCSU requires all students seeking admission into the College of Education for teacher preparation programs to take the Praxis® Core examinations in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Information about registering for the Praxis Core can be found at here.

Exemption: All students seeking admission into undergraduate or graduate teacher preparation programs that have an SAT score of <mark>1100</mark> or higher, and no less than <mark>550</mark> on the mathematics portion; or an ACT score of <mark>22</mark> or higher on the English subtest, and no less than <mark>19</mark> on the mathematic subtest are not required to take the Praxis® Core examinations.

Note: It is important to have your test scores sent directly from ETS to Southern. Make sure you use the correct code for Southern when taking the exam. Southern will only accept official score reports sent to the Registrar's office.

Note: It takes approximately four weeks, sometimes longer, to receive test results for Praxis Core. Therefore, it is imperative that you plan ahead to meet this requirement for application to the program.

Recommendation Forms and Letters (<mark>This requirement is waived for Spring 2012 applications.</mark>)

Each candidate must submit two letters of recommendation indicating the candidate's potential as an English major and teacher. It is recommended that at least one of these letters come from an English professor to speak about a candidate's proficiencies as a student of English. Letters from people who can speak to a candidate's experience with working with students, or leading or serving others, is also highly suggested. College of Education Recommendation Forms must accompany letters of recommendation. Forms are available to download at https://www.southernct.edu/sites/default/files/a/sites/education/recommendation-forms/English-Rec-Form-Nov-16.pdf.

Admission Essay

Each candidate must submit an essay discussing the following prompt: https://www.southernct.edu/sites/default/files/a/sites/education/SoEAdmissionEssay2018.pdf. This statement also serves as a writing sample, so it's important to submit a carefully reviewed paper.

Department Interview

Each candidate must meet with members of the English Department's Secondary Education Committee. The interview, which usually lasts about 20 minutes, will only be scheduled once we have a candidate's complete application portfolio. Please arrive on time, come professionally dressed, and be prepared to discuss the contents of the application portfolio. Also, bring along any questions for the committee members conducting the interview.

Professional Dispositions Assessment

Teacher training requires more than a solid academic record; it reaches beyond to what we call "**professional dispositions**," attitudes and professional characteristics that reach beyond academic ability. CAEP Standard 3.3 requires that our teacher preparation programs "establish and monitor attributes and

dispositions beyond academic ability that candidates must demonstrate at admissions and during the program." The mission of the College of Education states, "The College of Education is a professional school whose mission is to develop outstanding educators who are grounded in scholarship, possess attitudes and dispositions that reflect a devotion to teaching and learning." Thus, the importance of professional dispositions is embedded within the very mission of the College of Education Unit.

The Review Process

Once submitted, each portfolio is reviewed by members of the Secondary Education Committee, who are looking for competencies, as well as standards for teacher preparation established by NCTE. The committee considers the application materials and interview, and either recommends or denies a candidate's admission to the program and the College of Education. Admission into the program automatically grants admission into the College of Education. Once a candidate is accepted, application materials are sent to the College of Education, where a file is kept as the candidate's official record throughout the program. Some weeks after this time, each candidate will receive an official acceptance letter from the Dean of the College of Education.

At this point, a candidate has successfully passed through Gate 1 and is given permission to take the professional education courses required for certification. **Until a student has been admitted to the College of Education, he/she may not take more than 2 professional education courses.**

The Big Picture of the Program

The following information is also available in the undergraduate catalog. It outlines all of the requirements for the B.S. in ENGLISH degree with certification for grades 7-12). To view an Academic Map of the program, click here.

Overall GPA of 2.7 Required; 3.0 in English classes
122.5 Overall Credits Required

LIBERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND WRITING REQUIREMENTS
48 Credits Required

Students must complete a comprehensive three-tiered Liberal Education Program (LEP). View all requirements of the tiers on the Liberal Education Program. Any credits over 48 are counted toward free electives.

While the choice of courses that fulfill the requirements is generally left up to students, some departments require that students select specific courses to complement their major. This program has specific Tier requirements/restrictions for the following:

Tier 2 – American Experience (select one):
>   HIS 110 – *United States History I*
>   HIS 111 – *United States History II*

Tier 2 – Mind and Body:
>   SHE 203 – *School Health*

Tier 2 – Conflict and Consensus:
>   EDU 200 – *Teachers, Schools, and Societies* (completion required for admission to program)

Tier 3—Capstone:
>   ENG 496 – *Student Teaching Seminar*

Writing Requirements ("W-Courses")

Three W-courses are required. These may not be taken until after a student has passed ENG 112 — *Writing Arguments*. W-courses may count toward LEP, major, or cognate requirements, as well as free electives. Course sections that meet this requirement are designated by section numbers ending in "W." Transfer students who enter with 60 to 89 credits are required to pass two W-courses, while transfer students who enter with 90 credits or more must pass one W-course.

ENGLISH /CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
Major GPA of 2.7 Required and 'C' or better in each Major Requirement course.
No more than one-third (1/3) of a student's course credits in the English major may be transfer credits.

English Requirements
42 Credits Required

Requirements:
ENG 307 — Literary Analysis for English Majors (must be taken at SCSU)
ENG 308 — English Studies: Critical Theories (must be taken at SCSU)
ENG 309 — Rhetorical Strategies in Writing and Communication (must be taken at SCSU)
ENG 312 — English Grammar Systems
ENG 317 — Cross Cultural Literatures and Contexts
ENG 321 — British Literature through History I
ENG 322 — British Literature through History II
ENG 323 — American Literature through History
ENG 372 — Young Adult Literature
ENG 415 — History of the Language

Select one from:

LIT 300 — Literature of the Hebrew Bible

LIT 302 — Literature of the New Testament

LIT 310 — Mythology

LIT 311 — Norse and Celtic Mythology

LIT 406 — Classical Drama: Greek and Roman

LIT 488 — Seminar in World Lit. (English Medieval topic)

ENG 298 — Special Topics (English Medieval topic)

ENG 380 — Chaucer

ENG 385 — English Medieval Literature

ENG 398 — Special Topics (English Medieval topic)

ENG 487 – Seminar in British Literature (English Medieval topic)

Select one from:

ENG 342 – Shakespeare I: 1564-1601

ENG 343 – Shakespeare II: 1601-1616

ENG 487 – Seminar in British Literature (Shakespearean topic)

Select 6 credits in electives, approved by advisor:

- 3 credits in a 300- or 400-level ENG/LIT literature course
- 3 credits in either a 200- level or above ENG writing course

Education Requirements
30 Credits Required

Requirements:
EDU 316 – Child Development and Psychology for Educators
EDU 413 – Secondary Education
EDU 471 – Supporting English Learners for School Success (formerly IDS 471)
ENG 492 – Methods I
ENG 493 – Methods II
ENG 494 – Student Teaching-English
SED 482 – Teaching Exceptional Students in the Secondary Education Classroom
RDG 517 – Content Area Literacy in Middle and Secondary Schools
Non-Course Requirement: Module 1: Behavioral Difficulties (Social and Emotional Development)

Because the State Department of Education regularly updates its requirements for teacher certification, new courses may be added to the program by the time a student is ready to graduate and be certified. Students are encouraged to stay informed about their program area requirements and see their advisers often. Passing the Praxis II exam for English Language Arts: Content and Analysis (#5039) is also required for Initial Teaching Certification; however, this exam is not required for the BS in English degree.

Suggested Course Sequence for Professional Education Courses

As candidates advance through the program, it is recommended that the professional courses be taken in the following gates:

Gate 1: Admission into program (already taken EDU 200 and ENG 112)

Gate 2: EDU 413, SHE 203

Gate 2 or 3: ENG 492, RDG 517, SED 482, EDU 316

Gate 3: ENG 493, EDU 471

Gate 4: ENG 494—Secondary School Student Teaching in English, ENG 496—
Student Teaching Seminar (taken concurrently in the final semester)

Advising Snafus

Please be aware that certain courses may require special permission to register. If you are having trouble, stay in contact with your advisor. Note that because RDG 517 is a 500-level course, you will need permission to register for this course. Simply send your student ID and the CRN of the section you want to your advisor or the Secondary English Education coordinator.

Application to Student Teach

Well before all certification courses have been successfully completed, candidates must formally apply to student teach. This is usually done in ENG 492. Candidates must be in good academic standing, with a 3.0 combined average GPA in English courses and a 2.7 overall GPA for the College of Education, and meet other eligibility requirements. Please follow this link to the application, in Tk20, and a list of other requirements for student teaching: http://www.southernct.edu/academics/schools/education/student-services/student-teaching/.

Application for Certification and Graduation

Upon completion of all the requirements for
Gate 4, candidates may apply for state certification
by submitting an application to the College of Education's
Certification Officer. Information about this process
will be shared during the Student Teaching Seminar.

You must also plan ahead for your graduation. You can complete an online
application by visiting https://inside.southernct.edu/onestop/academics/apply-to-graduate. Check this site
early in your program to be aware of deadlines for the application to avoid a delay in obtaining your degree.

PRAXIS II
Certification in Connecticut requires that candidates pass the Praxis II exam, a state-required content
examination. Candidates applying for certification in English must pass the **English Language Arts:
Content and Analysis exam (#5039)** (see https://www.ets.org/praxis/ct/requirements/)
with a score of 168. A candidate cannot apply for certification without obtaining a passing score to this exam.

FINAL WORDS

The best advice we can offer teacher candidates is to stay informed about your progress through the four gates
and certification requirements. It *is* possible that the State of Connecticut could add certification requirements
that would necessitate changes to this program. So, stay in touch with your advisor and the Secondary
English Education Coordinator. We're happy to answer your questions and address your concerns as you
work your way toward a rewarding career. Best of luck!

Southern Connecticut State University