

Fairfield University

Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions

Minimum Undergraduate GPA Waiver Policy for Admission to an Initial Educator Certification Program

In seeking the best teachers and support professionals for Connecticut's schools, the state certification program standards for formal admission to an approved initial educator certification program require candidates to possess a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of B- (2.67 on a 4.0 GPA scale). Realizing that some otherwise qualified candidates may not possess this minimum GPA, the standards indicate that this admission requirement may be waived under extenuating circumstances.

This waiver is granted cautiously by Fairfield University when the certification program faculty determine that the candidate will be suitable for the field and promises a high level of success as an educator or support professional in public education.

Upon submitting a formal application for admission, all initial certification program candidates whose undergraduate GPA is less than 2.67 are sent a written notification that they may seek a waiver of this requirement by submitting a statement of extenuating circumstances to their application file. Those with cum undergraduate GPA of less than 2.40 will not be granted a waiver; for application to the Elementary Education Program, those with GPA below 2.50 will not be granted a waiver. However, these applicants may have the opportunity to take additional coursework (undergraduate and/or graduate) to improve their GPA and ask to be reconsidered for the waiver and formal admission. This supplemental coursework must be completed at grade of B or better and be approved by the program.

Those whose GPA is at 2.40 and above (2.5 for the Elementary Education Program) will be considered for the waiver and admission. Their statement, along with other application documentation, will be evaluated at the normal admission review period by the program faculty and the Dean's Office to determine the appropriateness of considering the granting of a waiver as well as admission to the certification program. These applicant may be asked to complete supplemental coursework and/or pass the appropriate Praxis II before formal admission is granted.

The decision to grant the GPA waiver will be made based on the candidate's:

1. Performance in approved graduate coursework in the desired certification program as a special status student. This coursework must be taken with two different professors to permit consultation concerning performance and must be completed with a grade of B or better. Successful completion of graduate coursework as a special status student does not imply automatic formal admission to a certification program. Performance in approved additional undergraduate coursework will also be considered in making waiver decision;
2. Quality of recommendations for admission;
3. Application essay and faculty interview; and
4. Fitness for the field and potential for success in the area of endorsement as determined by the certification program faculty and Dean or Assistant Dean.

Upon granting of a GPA waiver, an approval form signed by the Department and the Dean's Office, will be placed in the student's file. Candidates who are admitted to a certification program must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 for continuation in the program.

Applicants not receiving a GPA waiver may take additional undergraduate coursework in the content area and/or in general education to improve their GPA and reapply to the program.