

The following chart explains the similarities and differences among the two tracks for the elementary education program at Gordon State College.

<b>Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education</b>	
<b>Traditional Track</b>	<b>Parapro-to-Teacher Track</b>
<p>Results in BS in Elementary Education</p> <p>Results in Georgia Teacher Certification in Elementary Education/Special Education General Curriculum</p> <p>Requires completion of the same associate-level (pre-courses)</p> <p>Requires 2.75 GPA upon admission into program</p> <p>Requires completion or exemption of GACE Program Admission</p> <p>Requires completion of GACE Ethics modules</p> <p>Cost per course is the same (fees may differ)</p> <p>Pre-courses can be taken online or on-campus</p> <p>Pre-courses can be taken in fall, spring, or summer semesters. Student can choose the number of pre-courses to take at a time.</p> <p>Cohort begins in Fall semester and takes two years to complete (Fall 1, Spring 1, Summer, Fall 2, Spring 2). Students take the same courses in either track.</p> <p>Students must complete field experiences in public school settings of: Fall 1 (K or 1<sup>st</sup>- 100 hours), Spring 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>- 100 hours), Fall 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>- 100 hours), Spring 2 (Student Teaching in K-5, 600 hours)</p>	
<p>Upon completion of pre-courses, students must apply to the traditional track elementary education program: <a href="https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-education/elementary-special-education/admission-and-application/index.html">https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-education/elementary-special-education/admission-and-application/index.html</a></p>	<p>Upon completion of pre-courses students must apply to parapro-to-teacher track elementary education program: <a href="https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-education/elementary-special-education/parapro-to-teacher-education-program/index.html">https://www.gordonstate.edu/academics/school-education/elementary-special-education/parapro-to-teacher-education-program/index.html</a></p>
<p>Students must submit 2 disposition forms. 1 must come from a School of Education professor</p>	<p>Students must submit 2 disposition forms: one must come from the principal in the school in which the student is employed. The other must come from another supervisor (AP, counselor, HR, or supervising teacher).</p>

Student must submit 3 professional recommendation forms (can be from teachers, employers, etc.)	Student must submit 3 professional recommendation forms (can be from teachers, employers, etc.) It is recommended that these come from other teachers or personnel at the school in which the student is employed.
Courses are held on-campus (primarily in the afternoons)	Course are held asynchronously online through D2L.
Students are assigned to a field placement each semester by field placement coordinator.	Students and employing principal sign an MOU at the time the student is accepted. This MOU is an agreement to work with the student for field placements in the required areas in the school building or another school in the county.
Students are not required to work in the school system while completing the program.	Students are required to be a paraprofessional at the time of acceptance into the program and must remain employed as a parapro in a public school system during the completion of the program (preferably in K-5 setting).

*Other notes:*

Students may not fluctuate between tracks. Once accepted, they will remain in the track in which they applied. (For example, a student cannot be in the traditional track but request to take classes online with the parapro track).

Students in the parapro track must complete the field experiences in the required grade bands. They may not complete practicums or student teaching in pre-k, middle, or high school. Field experiences must be in a public school (not private or corporate).

Students in the parapro track must have a signed MOU with their principals before being fully accepted into the education program.

The parapro to teacher track is only for the elementary education program at this time.