



## Brewton-Parker Christian UNIVERSITY

### Paraprofessional to Teachers

The Paraprofessionals to Teacher (PtT) program is a partnership between local school districts and Brewton-Parker Christian University (BPCU). The PtT program leads to a Bachelor's of Science in all BPCU available degree areas, Early Childhood Education, Middle Grades Education, Special Education, Secondary certification in Chemistry, English, and K-12 certification in Music. In this degree program, paraprofessionals are able to complete all required coursework, take the GACE exam in their specific major, graduate with a bachelor of science degree and gain initial certification from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (teacher licensing body in Georgia). Graduates are certified to teach in a public or private school.

The PtT program brings in education candidates who already have on-the-job skills in the following areas.

1. Classroom Experience
2. Understanding of Teacher Responsibilities
3. Commitment to School and Community
4. Experience in Classroom Management
5. Awareness of Cultural Needs of Local Students
6. High Retention Rate

#### **Benefits of PtT Program:**

In the past, the need to attend classes face-to-face or in person in order to gain a teaching degree has been a hindrance to those working full-time who may also already have family obligations. BPCU understands the unique needs of full-time paraprofessionals seeking a degree in teaching. This program is uniquely designed to be flexible and meet the needs of the working individual. We have worked to ensure that all classes are online.

#### **Candidate Qualifications and Requirements:**

1. Candidates must have been employed by a school system as a paraprofessional for at least 1 year.
2. Candidates must be recommended by the principal in their school.
3. Candidates must remain employed during the PtT program.
4. Candidates must complete the application for admission to BPCU.
5. Candidates/School/BPCU complete the signed agreement.
6. Candidates will complete all GaPSC approved program requirements.

#### **Education Preparation Program (EPP) Information:**

Candidates who enter the program with college credit will have a transcript evaluation to determine remaining program requirements. Course work will be online and designed to meet the unique time constraints of full-time working candidates. Core requirements can be met with online courses with BPCU faculty and adjunct PBCU Faculty. Once core requirements are met, candidates must apply for admission to the program. Clinical Experience is a required component, and coordinating this experience will be a collaborative effort between the school district and BPCU Clinical Faculty. This partnership ensures that all GaPSC requirements for program completion and certification are fully met while allowing the school/system to continue functioning without major disruption.