URGENT

Instructions for SC State University Teacher and Counselor Education Candidates Applying for Student Teacher/Internship Approval and Initial Certification

Applying for Clearance

Pursuant to Section 59-25-115 of the SC Code of Laws, all candidates must first apply for clearance to serve in a South Carolina public school as part of their program's student teaching or clinical experience requirements. After applying for clearance, candidates must complete the fingerprint process before they can begin student teaching in a South Carolina school. Candidates must ensure that their South Carolina Dept. of Education (SCDE) application files are completed approximately six months prior to their student teaching or clinical experience, according to the following deadlines:

- **Fall semester candidates: February 15**
  (i.e., the February prior to the student teaching or clinical experience)

- **Spring semester candidates: June 15**
  (i.e., the June prior to the student teaching or clinical experience)

To apply for clearance to serve in a South Carolina school setting, candidates must:

1. Complete the Application for Student Teaching Approval and Initial Certification [https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/cats/](https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/cats/) prior to all other steps.

2. Submit the non-refundable $105 Processing Fee [https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/cats/](https://ed.sc.gov/educators/certification/cats/) (online or check/money order).


Once all application requirements are fulfilled, clearance will be displayed when utilizing the View Certification Status South Carolina Dept. of Education (SCDE) [https://ed.sc.gov/educators/teaching-in-south-carolina/current-south-carolina-teachers/view-certification-status/](https://ed.sc.gov/educators/teaching-in-south-carolina/current-south-carolina-teachers/view-certification-status/) feature of the SCDE website. Materials submitted for clearance remain on file with the SCDE Office of Educator Services and may be applied toward certification application requirements upon approved program completion.

*Any candidate who does not have clearance status displayed on the SCDE website prior to enrolling in ED 430/550, will not be allowed to student teach.*