Welcome Future Teacher!

The purpose of this handout is to give you some important information in a very brief format about the teacher education program at Huntingdon College, and about expectations of the State Department of Alabama (SDE). These are things that you need to be aware of and be thinking about as you begin to prepare to become a teacher.

What we offer:
Huntingdon College offers programs leading to the following Alabama teaching certificates:
- Biology (6-12)
- Chemistry (6-12)
- Elementary Education and Collaborative Special Education (K-6)
- English (6 – 12)
- History (6-12)
- Mathematics (6-12)
- Music Instrumental (P-12)
- Music Choral (P-12)
- Physical Education (P-12)

First thing to do!
The first thing you need to do once registering for your first education class, which is EDUC 101 Foundations of Education, is to complete a Fingerprint Background Check through Cogent. During EDUC 101, you will be required to begin your field experience hours in the schools, and you may not do so until the Fingerprint Background Check is completed. You may go ahead and begin this process now! Please do this as soon as possible so that you may begin your field experience early during EDUC 101. Remember that the fingerprinting and background check must be done by Cogent; no other fingerprinting or background check will be accepted. Go to www.cogentid.com to get started. The cost is $51.40 payable to Cogent.
June 12, 2013

Field Experience Hours
During your four years at Huntingdon College, you will be required to complete a minimum of 205 field experience hours before your teaching internship can take place, which occurs during the last semester of the senior year. Field experience hours, practicums and internships are generally arranged and approved by our Field Placement Officer at Huntingdon, and will take place in the Montgomery area. Some field experiences will actually take place at Huntingdon when K-12 students come to campus with their teacher for particular learning activities. Most all education courses at Huntingdon have a requirement of a minimum of 10 field experience hours that must be completed in order to pass the class.

Grade Point Average
Students must maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 overall, 2.5 in the professional studies, and 2.5 in the teaching field in order to be admitted into the Teacher Education Program. Many courses cannot be taken unless you have been admitted, so please keep up those grades and get admitted in a timely manner! In addition, remember that to register for the internship, students must have the 2.5 GPA overall, 2.5 in the professional studies, and 2.5 in the teaching field.

Alabama Competency Tests (Alabama Educator Certification Testing Program - AECTP)
There are at least three tests that will be required of you in order to obtain your teaching certificate (some majors require more tests). You will not take these tests at Huntingdon College; rather, you will go to a testing center to take the tests. You will be responsible for registering and paying for the tests. Most tests are offered in either a paper version or an online version.

- The first test must be taken before you may be admitted into any teacher education program in the State of Alabama. We advise you to take this test anytime between now and your sophomore year. The test is the Basic Skills Assessment. Find out more about this test at https://actapps.act.org. You will need to register for and take the test entitled, **Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Writing**. The cost is $98 payable to APTTP.

- Another test you will take is the **PRAXIS II**, content area test, and you are required to take and pass this test prior to your internship. We encourage you to take this test during your junior year, or no later than the summer before your senior year. This test is related to the **content area** of which you are seeking teacher certification. For example, if you want to be an English teacher, you will take a test about your knowledge of English; if you want to be a Physical Education teacher, you will take a test about your knowledge of physical education; if you want to be a music teacher, you will take a test about your knowledge of music; if you want to be a history teacher, you will take a test about your knowledge of history, etc.

- All students at Huntingdon who enter into the Elementary/ Collaborative Special Education (K-6) program will be required to take three PRAXIS II content tests: (1.) one related to Elementary content, (2.) one related to Special Education, and (3.) one related to Reading.

- Another test that you will be required to take, regardless of the certificate being sought, is the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test (effective Sept 1, 2013). There is a PLT K-6 test, and a PLT 7-12 test. Students seeking P-12 certification in Physical Education or in Music may choose either of the tests to take. We encourage you to take this test during your junior year, or no later than the summer before
June 12, 2013

your senior year. You must have passed this test before you are allowed to begin your internship. The price of this test is $139.00.

Do not worry about the PRAXIS II tests at this point! Our goal is to prepare you to ace these tests! You may find out more about the PRAXIS II content area tests and the PLT by visiting http://www.ets.org/praxis/al. The tests vary in price, depending on whether you choose electronic or paper version and depending on the certification area being sought, but most are between $85. and $139.00.

Other:
All students coming to Huntingdon College to enter a program leading to teacher certification must comply with and complete requirements for an Alabama Teaching Certificate. After receiving an Alabama certificate, the candidate then works with his/her home state in order to obtain a certificate.

For more information, please do not hesitate to call us!

Sincerely,

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Teacher Education Program

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If majoring in Physical Education, you may also call:
Dr. Lisa Dorman, Chair
Chair, Department of Sport Science and Physical Education
ldorman@huntingdon.edu
Office: Weil 101B
334 - 833-4465 (desk)

If majoring in Music Education, you may also call:
Mrs. Jennifer Canfield, Chair
Department of Music
jcanfield@huntingdon.edu
Office: Smith 204
334-833-4588

Please see attached:
• Requirements for admittance to the Teacher Education Program at Huntingdon College
• 2013 – 2014 Assessment dates for the Alabama Educator Certification Testing Program
Huntingdon College’s Teacher Preparation Process

COMPASSIONATE
(From Awareness and Response to Diverse Learners)

PRACTICED
(Through Application and Technology)

CONNECTED
(Through Reflection, Authentic Dialogue, and Exploration)