

## Preparation and Certification

### State Requirements

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) is the teacher certification agency for the Georgia. Library media specialists (LMSs) are certified at the master degree level. An undergraduate educational degree or prior teaching certification or experience in another academic discipline is not required. Thus, a master's degree in library information science from an approved teacher education program is required for Georgia certification as a library media specialist. A successful score on the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE™) on Test I and Test II are also required.

Specific Teacher Certification Rules below may be found at the GaPSC Website:

<http://www.gapsc.com/Rules/Current/Certification/505-2-.201.pdf>

**Effective October 15, 2012**

### **505-2-.201 MEDIA SPECIALIST**

(1) Initial Certificate Requirements.

(a) Clear Renewable Certificate (See Rule 505-2-.03):

1. An applicant is eligible for a Clear Renewable Certificate in the field of Media Specialist based on completion of a state-approved certification preparation program in Media Specialist at the

master's degree level (level 5) or higher; and

2. An applicant must meet the Special Georgia Requirements (See Rule 505-2.20) applicable to

the field of Media Specialist:

(i) Content Knowledge Assessment;

(ii) Recency of Study;

(iii) Special Education - coursework in the identification and education of children who have special educational needs; and

(iv) Standards of Conduct.

(b) Non-Renewable Professional Certificate (See Rule 505-2-.06):

1. Non-Renewable Professional Certificates in the field of Media Specialist are issued in the following situations at the request of a school system based on employment and following General

Procedures for Certification Application:

(i) The applicant has met all requirements of a state-approved certification preparation program

at the master's degree level or higher in Media Specialist and is missing Special Georgia Requirements;

(ii) The applicant has satisfied all other Clear Renewable Certificate requirements except that

the highest degree held is a state-approved Media Specialist certification preparation program at the bachelor's degree level (level 4);

(iii) The applicant holds an expired Georgia Media Specialist certificate or a professional out-ofstate certificate in Media Specialist (valid or expired) to meet Special Georgia Requirements outlined

in (1)(a) and/or Standard Renewal Requirements; and

(iv) The applicant currently holds a Clear Renewable Certificate in any field at a level 4 or higher,

and can provide verification of acceptance into a state-approved certification preparation Media

Specialist certification preparation program at the master's degree level (level 5) or higher.

2. Educators holding a Non-Renewable Professional certificate must meet all requirements outlined by the GaPSC and convert to a Clear Renewable certificate prior to the end validity of the

Non-Renewable Professional certificate.

(c) Non-Renewable Non-Professional Certificate (See Rule 505-2-.30):