

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mercer ID # \_\_\_\_\_

### Application Requirements:

1. Review the Mercer University TEACH Grant Presentation: <https://financialaid.mercer.edu/upload/TEACH-Presentation.pdf>
2. Complete and Submit the Mercer TEACH Grant Agreement form (Page 3 of this document)
3. Complete Federal TEACH Grant Entrance Counseling and Agreement to Serve at <https://studentaid.gov/teach-grant-program>

Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program that provides grants of **up to \$4,000\*** per year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. \*Amount subject to sequestration limits.

### Conditions

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students (see below for more information on high-need fields and schools serving low-income students). As a recipient of a TEACH Grant, you must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant.

***IMPORTANT:** If you fail to complete this service obligation, all amounts of TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education. You will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was disbursed.*

### Student Eligibility Requirements

- Must be admitted as a degree-seeking student in the Mercer University Tift College of Education
- Must be classified as a junior/senior (minimum 60 earned semester hours) or enrolled in an approved master's degree program
- Must be pursuing a B.S., or a STEM M.A.T degree in a High Need Field
- Must not have a prior undergraduate or master's degree
- Must maintain a minimum 3.25 Mercer GPA (checked at the end of each semester)
- Must be a US Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen
- Must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for financial aid as required by the University Catalog.

### High-Need Field

- Foreign Language Education
- Mathematics (BSED Middle Grade Mathematics; BSED Secondary Mathematics; MAT Middle Grades Math; MAT Secondary Math)
- Science (BSED Middle Grades Science; BSED Secondary Science; MAT Middle Grades Math; MAT Secondary Math)
- Special Education (BSED in ELSPED—was Early Childhood Special Education and now is referred to as Elementary Special Education; BSED in Holistic Child)
- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition (ESOL Endorsement—MED ECE & EdS ECE Online)
- Reading Specialist (Reading Endorsement—MED ECE & EdS ECE Online)
- Elementary Instruction (Early Childhood/Special Education; Early Childhood/Special Education – The Holistic Child; Early Childhood/Special Education)
- English Language Arts (Middle Grades Language Arts and Secondary English)

### **Schools Serving Low-Income Students**

Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits. To access the Directory, please go to <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/tcliDirectorySearch.action>

### **Teach Grant Agreement to Serve Conditions**

- Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve that will be available electronically on a Department of Education website. The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgment by you that you understand that if you do not meet the teaching service requirements you must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were disbursed.
- Specifically, the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve will require the following:
- For each TEACH Grant-eligible program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, you must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight calendar years after you completed or withdrew from the academic program for which you received the TEACH Grant.
- You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher at a low-income school. The term highly-qualified teacher is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field.
- Within 120 days of completing your degree, you must certify to the US Department of Education that either you are employed as a full-time teacher, or you are not yet employed as a full-time teacher but you intend to meet the terms and conditions of the service agreement. You will renew your certification each year until your service obligation is satisfied. The certification must be on the Department-approved form available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.html>
- You must comply with any other requirements that the Department of Education determines to be necessary.

### **Disclaimer**

This fact sheet provides a preliminary summary of the TEACH Grant Program based on the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. The information in this document is subject to change and is not binding on the Department of Education or Mercer University.

Please complete and return the TEACH Grant Application on the following page.

Indicate the semester and academic year for which you are requesting the TEACH Grant:

☐ Fall \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Spring \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Summer \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year) (Year) (Year)

Expected Enrollment: Fall: \_\_\_\_\_ hours; Spring: \_\_\_\_\_ hours; Summer: \_\_\_\_\_ hours

I understand and agree to the following requirements of the TEACH Grant:

(Please read and initial each requirement)

☐ I am at least a Junior or Master's degree student FULLY admitted into the Mercer University Tift College of Education with a Mercer Grade-Point- Average of 3.25 or higher

**NOTE> If you do not have a 3.25 Mercer GPA, you must submit documentation that you have scored in the 75th percentile on a nationally-normed standardized college admissions test – or – submit employment verification (graduate students only) to support that you are a current or former full-time teacher or retiree.**

☐ I am majoring in a high-need field as defined by the Mercer University Tift College of Education in consultation with the U.S. Department of Education's requirements for TEACH Grant.

☐ I understand that the TEACH Grant will be pro-rated each semester if I am not enrolled in a full-time status (Undergraduate full-time = 12 semester hours; Graduate full-time = 9 semester hours)

☐ I understand that the TEACH Grant may affect other financial aid that I may be receiving from Mercer University (e.g. loans)

☐ I understand that I must make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to retain the TEACH Grant.

☐ I understand that second Bachelor's degrees, post baccalaureate Teacher Certification, and degrees above the Master's degree are not eligible for the TEACH Grant.

☐ I understand that I am required to teach a minimum of four (4) full academic years within an eight (8) year window following my completion of the academic program for which I am receiving the TEACH Grant.

☐ I understand that my four (4) year teaching/service requirement must be in a critical need content field as defined by the specific state in which I am teaching upon entering service, in a school that meets the U.S. Department of Education's definition of an economically "low-income" school.

☐ I understand that I must complete TEACH grant Entrance Counseling and Agreement to Serve (ATS) with the U.S. Department of Education annually.

☐ I understand that if I do not meet the requirements of my teaching/service requirement, all TEACH Grant funds I received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. I understand that I must repay this loan in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

By signing below, I agree that I have reviewed the Federal TEACH Grant requirements and agree to each of the requirements listed above.

Student Name (Printed)

Mercer ID #

Student's Signature (required)

Date

Electronic Signatures will NOT be accepted. You must print this form before signing and submitting.

Please return this form to the Office of Student Financial Planning at Mercer University as listed below:

<b>Macon and RAC campuses:</b> Mercer University   Office of Student Financial Planning 1501 Mercer University Drive Macon, GA 31207-0001 MaconRac_FinAid@mercer.edu Phone Number: (478) 301-2670	<b>Atlanta Campus:</b> Mercer University   Office of Student Financial Planning 3001 Mercer University Drive Atlanta, GA 30341 AtlantaFinancialAid@mercer.edu Phone Number: (678) 547-6444
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